



Dear Members of the Maryland Jewish Community:

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) and the Washington Jewish Week (WJW) have teamed up to offer you this 2022 Maryland Jewish Primary Voter's Guide. This Voter's Guide was compiled by sending survey questions to each candidate in a contested race for their party's nomination. Contested races include the primaries for Governor, State Senator, Delegate, Attorney General, and Comptroller, as well as for Montgomery County Executive, At Large and District Councilmembers. We have provided the responses (in full) for each candidate who replied. Due to a technical glitch, the JCRC only received 50% of responses to the question -- "What are your top 3 social welfare priorities?" To be fair to all of our candidates, we eliminated that question. For additional information, contact Deborah Miller at the JCRC at [dmiller@jcouncil.org](mailto:dmiller@jcouncil.org).

Election Day in Maryland is Tuesday, July 19. Every registered voter in Maryland can vote for Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller, and one State Senator and three House of Delegates. To find your State Senator/Delegates (State Legislative District) [click here](#). Every registered voter in Montgomery County can vote for County Executive, four At Large Councilmembers, and one District-based Councilmember. To determine which Council District you live in, and where to vote on election day, [click here](#). If you wish to vote early, between July 7 and July 14, [click here](#) for a list of locations. To find out how to vote by mail-in ballot, [click here](#). And to find drop off locations for mail-in ballots, [click here](#). If you have any questions, you can call the Maryland State Board of Elections at (800) 222-8683 or the Montgomery County Board of Elections at (240) 777-8500.

We hope this resource is a valuable tool to facilitate your participation in our democratic process.

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Maryland State Board of Elections 2022

<https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2022/index.html>

State Senator/Delegate Lookup

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Voter Location Lookup

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch>

Maryland State Board of Elections – Early Voting Centers

[https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/early\\_voting.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/early_voting.html)

Maryland State Board of Elections – Mail-in Voting Instructions

<https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>

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## Candidates for Governor - Republican

### Dan Cox



#### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I will end CRT and gender politics in schools, expand STEM and American history teaching, order and permanently seek to pass into law expanded vouchers for school choice under Art. VIII of the MD constitution,

and will provide immediate tax and inflation relief at the gas pump and with our property taxes by suspending the gas tax and sending the \$2.5 Billion in federal tax relief back to the people. I will restore freedom to the people by ending jobs for jobs, rescinding health mandates and banning vaccine passports to return our medical privacy. On Day One we will take charge of our streets, back the Blue, and restore Peace from carjackings, violent crime and murder while ensuring the rights of the People are protected. As a State Delegate, former Town Council President, 17-yr small business owner and attorney, husband and father of 10 I am prepared on Day One to restore Freedom to the Free State.

#### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Order and demand safety once again in our cities, neighborhoods and communities >Defend Parental Rights and order expanded school choice where the money follows the child and public schools are uplifted >Restore Freedom and our medical privacy for all

#### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Order and demand safety once again in our cities, neighborhoods and communities >Defend Parental Rights and order expanded school choice where the money follows the child and public schools are uplifted >Restore Freedom and our medical privacy for all

#### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

Having worked in non-profits for over 10 years prior to being an attorney and business owner, I support them. They need to be devoid of political influence and money designed to influence legislation, policy or voting.

#### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?

Expand affordable housing immediately with approval of new development as a national security issue. Competition is the method to reduce costs and the more excellent housing that is approved for development the lower the rent or payment will be. Lower property taxes immediately through reducing as a matter of urgency the assessments by state tax assessors. People who have paid off their homes are facing losing them because of inflationary taxation both on their real property and at the gas pump. I will order a reduction of the state valuation as to taxation purpose without effecting the property values for individual ownership equity.

#### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

I would expand right to carry laws with Shall Issue permits for all congregations and persons who are law abiding. I would also expand the tax benefits to businesses who provide donations to synagogues, churches and houses of faith

#### What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I am strongly opposed to it and have worked for years with Christians and Jews for Israel to oppose the BDS movement on college campuses. It is nothing more than the worst discrimination once again. Our ally Israel must be defended at all costs.

#### What are your positions and proposals, if

#### any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?

I would support and expand trade with Israel and provide incentives including tax credits for businesses to invest in MD and hire Maryland employees.

#### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Our state's two nuclear power facilities at Calvert Cliffs provide 79% of the state's clean energy, and 34.1% of the state's electricity. We cannot rely on electricity without expanding its provision. I am a strong supporter of clean energy including the cleanest power source available, new nuclear and modular reactors. I also have introduced legislation to end the two trash incinerator plants in Maryland, which are sources of some of the highest levels of carcinogenic and deleterious emissions in the entire state. Finally, by expanding our roads to be like the advanced cities of the world where we no longer use them as parking lots, we will reduce emissions from idling in traffic by more than 50% as we reduce our travel times.

#### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

No matter our differences on the issue of abortion, we can all agree that Maryland should no longer be an abortion-tourism and sex trafficking cover-up state, where our tax dollars pay for people to traffic women into our state to have us pay for the abortions. As a pro-life state delegate and candidate for governor I believe that all life and all women, including those in the womb, deserve the protections of the natural law and our constitution. There can be no safety of rights for anyone when a minority group is targeted for their lives to be terminated for any cause, as in abortion. Taxpayers want us to stop funding abortions with taxpayer money and reproductive freedom with abortion as a form of birth control is not supported by either law or public opinion.

#### What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?

This is a primary focus of my campaign. I have fought to expand private school vouchers and BOOST. I would make the program state-wide and a matter of national security, since every day our students fall behind their peers of other nations and states.

#### What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?

I have regularly fought for and put in Bills to increase SRO funding and security in public schools to protect our students. We also need to expand education in more than just liberal arts training, but include once again an introduction to the Trades. Expanding our public schools into social welfare centers, with nursing care, free transportation and health programs, will undermine parental rights and detract from the Constitutional mandate under Article VIII which requires a 'thorough and efficient' statewide program of free public education K-12.

#### How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?

I would provide an immediate tax credit package for families who wish to house their loved ones in their own homes with suites and home-health care, and would direct the Medicare/Medicaid program in Maryland to approve for funding such family-based living arrangements with in-home care being approved. I would also expand credits for builders of and employees of assisted living facilities, and work with the Legislature of Maryland to provide incentives for reduced cost affordability and would require equal access for healthcare for geriatric and Medicaid patients.

### Robin Ficker

#### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Have placed 25 ballot measures from 1974-2020 which have received 2,537,403 votes to pass Term Limits, property tax revenue increase limits, and to keep garbage dumps and sewage sludge trenching from residential zones. Completed 40,000 cases in Maryland Courts and overturned 4 Maryland laws in Federal

Court. Won Maryland's definitive sex discrimination case in Federal Court end questions about marital status and child care arrangements and ending ratings of female job applicants as to physique and facial features.

#### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Cut MD sales tax by 1/3 or two cents giving every household a fiscal stimulus of \$780/year. That will Act as a lure to make big employers think Maryland is business friendly. Increase accessibility to the Governor's mansion by holding a first come first served Open House at the Governor's mansion at 6 am every Monday morning. Promote fairness and opportunity for all.

#### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Police need to treat people as they would their brother or sister. But I know that fentanyl is the # 1 cause of death for adults 18-45. We can't tolerate fentanyl in Maryland, Promote fairness in Courts. I shall appoint fair judges.

#### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

Have always supported strong partnership and always shall.

#### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?

Same as answer to last question herein.

#### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

Increase police availability.

#### What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

Oppose

#### What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?

Strongly support Israel and strengthening economic relationship between Maryland and Israel.

#### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Double the clean electrical energy production at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear plant to 2 million homes, adding many Maryland jobs. Stop selling Calvert Cliffs electricity to Delaware at reduced rates.

#### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

Matter for states, not federal judges we do not know. Concerned that % of African American pregnancies that end in abortion higher than other groups.

#### What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?

Support

#### What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?

Oppose

#### How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?

Oppose increase in property taxes beyond rate of inflation in state or local governments. Use our Jobs Strikeforce to bring in multi-billion dollar expansions of big companies all of which shun Maryland. Our state Department of Commerce has been asleep while Amazon, Apple, Boeing, Facebook, Global Foundries, Google, Intel, Hyundai, Microsoft, Nucor Steel, Samsung, Taiwan Semiconductor, Tesla, Texas Instruments, and Toyota have launched multi-billion \$ expansions in other states in the last few years.

### Kelly Schulz



#### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am running for governor to make Maryland safe, steady, and prosperous. As a state, we have come a long way and made incredible strides over the last seven and a half years under Governor Hogan's leadership. Our campaign

is focused on building upon this progress and making sure that all Marylanders, from Oakland to Ocean City, and everywhere in between, have the opportunities to pursue their own dreams, here in Maryland. That's only going to happen if we continue to move our state in the right direction, and I am the only candidate who will be able to do that. Every other candidate in this race wants to take Maryland in a completely different direction, they're proposing policies which will take our state back to the days where our economy was floundering, where we were overburdened with excessive taxes, and where nearly half of all Marylanders wanted to flee the state. I'm focused on tackling violent crime to keep our communities safe, ensuring that every single Maryland child can receive a world class education, and that we continue to make our state more affordable by growing our economy and fighting for tax relief for you and your family. Like you, I love Maryland. This is the state where I raised my two boys, graduated college, started a small business, became a member of the House of Delegates, and became the first woman in state history to ever serve as the cabinet secretary for both the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce. And unlike any other candidate in this race, I have a track record of success both in the legislative branch and as a member of a governor's cabinet. I believe that my life experiences, challenges and career accomplishments make me uniquely qualified to serve this state as your next governor.

#### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Over the next four years, as governor, I want to make Maryland the best state to live, work, start a family, create a business, and retire. That means making sure that Marylanders have a safe, steady prosperous future here in our state. It means treating our police officers like heroes and criminals like criminals. It means empowering parents in their children's education and making sure that every single child, regardless of their zip code receives a world class education. And it means making our state more affordable for families and job creators, that means cutting taxes, specifically repealing the Inflation Tax to give you a break at the gas pump, and eliminating taxes on the retirement income of Marylanders.

#### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Without safety, nothing else matters. If you constantly worry about carjackings, or that your kids could get hit by a stray bullet, you can't raise your family. You can't prosper. I'll support our brave men and women in law enforcement with the resources and training they need to safely and effectively do their jobs. This means making sure that departments have the funding they need so that we can have more police officers on the street. I'll fight to make sure criminals, especially repeat violent offenders remain behind bars. In short, we will treat our criminals like criminals and our police officers like heroes. We can always work to improve relationships police officers have with the communities they represent. And I think it is important for us all to recognize that many minority groups have strained relationships with law enforcement and for legitimate reasons. This is not something that is going to be fixed overnight, but there are things we can do to help. This means supporting and growing PAL programs and community mentorship programs which help increase communication and trust between communities and law enforcement. I strongly supported the investments Governor Hogan made in his Refund the Police Initiative, including the tens of millions of dollars that he invested towards de-escalation training and the establishment of the Accountability Resources Fund.

#### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

Collaboration and partnerships between state government and nonprofits strengthen our state and provide more opportunities for Marylanders. From my time at the Department of Labor, I've seen first hand how valuable these partnerships can be truly changing lives for the better. I was honored to lead and establish nationally recognized job training and apprenticeship programs which opened doors for thousands of Marylanders, providing them with valuable skills and career

opportunities. These programs involved direct collaboration between the state and local organizations. As governor, I will look for ways in which we can continue to build upon existing partnerships and forge new ones with nonprofit organizations which could be instrumental in helping individuals and communities across the state.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

One of my top priorities as governor will be to work towards eliminating taxes on the retirement income of all Marylanders. We can get there by first eliminating these taxes on our Hometown Heroes, veterans, police, firefighters, and first responders as a sign of gratitude - it's the least we can do to honor their service and sacrifice for our state and country. Over the last seven and a half years we've made some progress in achieving these goals, but the job is not done yet. Every single retiree should have the opportunity to stay in Maryland and not have to worry about burdensome taxes. We have to continue to make Maryland more affordable and attractive for residents and job creators, so that we can increase competition, in turn this would lead to more good paying jobs and an increase in housing options.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

No Marylander should have to have to worship or express their religious beliefs in fear. I always have, and will continue to strongly denounce anti-Semitism and hatred as your next governor. Like Governor Hogan, I will commit funding annually in the budget for safety and security upgrades at places of worship and religious schools and community centers. People of all faiths and backgrounds should feel safe in Maryland, these invest-

ments are essential in helping increase security.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am 100% opposed to the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement and I am completely supportive of the executive order which Governor Hogan signed in 2017, which prohibits executive branch agencies from entering into contracts or conducting official state business with entities that support the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I am very proud of the strong relationship that our state shares with Israel, and I look forward to making this relationship even stronger. As the Secretary of Commerce and through my work in partnership with the Maryland/ Israel Development Center and Barry Bogue, I value the impact and friendship that our state has with Israel on a number of different emerging areas including cybersecurity. I was fortunate to work with Governor Hogan to help bring Israeli businesses here to Maryland, including RADA Technologies who relocated to a new 25,000 square foot facility in Montgomery County. There are a lot of shared interests between Maryland and Israel which I will look to strengthen. From education, emerging technologies, and economic development, we have seen, and continue to see how this strong relationship benefits both Maryland and Israel.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Maryland has made tremendous progress in becoming a national leader on environmental issues. Maryland is the fourth most environmentally friendly state in the country, has the highest water quality in the country,

and has the second most LEED-certified buildings per capita. I will make sure to strike a balance between the environment and making sure that our economy, job creators, and Maryland families are in the best position to prosper. I support an all the above approach to energy and will be focused on implementing Maryland's current greenhouse gas emissions target, which is one of the strongest in the nation. We're the most improved state in America for business and a leader on the environment. We don't need to propose unfeasible plans just to appease certain interest groups, when we are already a national leader. I prefer to incentivize people to do the right things, rather than forcing them under restrictive measures.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

Thirty years ago, Marylanders voted to make abortion legal in Maryland, this issue is settled law. While I am personally pro-life, as governor, nothing will change with respect to current Maryland law on the issue.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I strongly believe that every single child in Maryland deserves the opportunity to receive a world class education, regardless of their zip code. To ensure this reality, I fully support not only continuing, but expanding the BOOST scholarship program. The results of the BOOST scholarship program have been transformational and life changing. Over 2,500 Maryland students from under performing schools have received over \$50 million in scholarships to have the chance to attend a non-public school and receive an excellent education. There are other candidates in this race who have made clear that if elected, they would end the BOOST program. I believe that this is a terrible idea, and one which would deprive thousands of Maryland students from

a great opportunity. With over 1,000 students on the waitlist to receive a BOOST scholarship, I would fight to preserve this program and expand it so that more Maryland children and their families could benefit from this program.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

Students in all schools across the state should receive the appropriate resources needed to be able to thrive in the classroom. I am very supportive of Governor Hogan's investments to enhance security at nonpublic schools, I will continue this as governor.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

Over the last seven and a half years, Maryland has made strides in meeting the long-term care needs of the elderly population in our state. We've implemented state of the art programs, which I am committed to continue, which help seniors age in place and also have made more affordable assisted living options available. Our first in the nation, expansive medical equipment reuse program allows families and seniors in jurisdictions across the state to have access to wheelchairs and other equipment at no cost. Maryland's Senior Call Check Program is another first of its kind program in which an automated daily check in call is provided to seniors to ensure that loved ones are safe. Often aging in place is the best, and the goal which we would like to most often pursue. By leveraging certain technologies, including telehealth, we could ease the burdens often associated with assisted living options.

**Joe Werner**

Did not submit a response.

## Candidates For Governor-Democratic

### Jon Baron



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

My career has focused on government reform, and I've been able to drive real change from both inside and outside government. As a Clinton Administration official, I headed a

billion-dollar technology program and won awards for reinventing government. Later, I founded and ran a nonprofit that sparked a movement to advance evidence-based policymaking throughout government, and worked with the Bush and Obama Administrations to enact major reforms in social spending programs. I'm running for governor because Maryland isn't making progress on issues that are damaging millions of lives — and I'm offering a fundamentally different approach. In education, more than 1/4 of middle school students in our state can't read at basic level, and more than 1/3 can't do basic math — those numbers are no different than they were 20 years ago. The bottom 40 percent of Marylanders have seen stagnant wages since the 1980s, as income inequality has soared. More than half a million Marylanders live in poverty, and we've made no progress lowering our poverty rate in over 30 years. Racial inequities persist in all these areas. Fellow Marylanders, we can't just keep doing the same thing we've done for decades — rolling out one unproven government program after another — and expect a different result. That hasn't brought progress and it won't, for a simple reason: Many programs, no matter how well-intentioned they are, just don't work, as we've seen too often when the results are actually measured. To make progress, we have to zero-in on solutions that don't just sound like good ideas, but have been tested in the real world and shown to make a big difference in people's lives. That's been the mission of my career, and of the bipartisan reforms I've gotten enacted into law — and it's what I'll do as governor.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

When I'm governor, we'll do what's proven to move the needle on low student achievement, stagnant wages, poverty, and other major problems. As one example, in education, we'll provide high-quality tutoring to every struggling first and second grader in

the entire state. Tutoring has been shown to move students up toward grade level early, before their problems become serious in later grades, and it's the most effective tool we have to address COVID-related learning loss. We'll do this by recruiting an army of people from the community, including retirees and recent college graduates, to become tutors for a modest stipend as a public service. To raise wages and lower poverty, we'll partner with Maryland businesses to provide effective job training to every adult in our state who wants to advance. If done right, job training can be extremely effective — it's been shown to increase earnings by as much as 40 percent (or \$8,000 per person) each year. The key is to focus the training on fast-growing industries, like IT and healthcare, and to work closely with local employers who provide paid internships to the trainees. Under my plan, the state will pay for the training, employers pay for the internships, the economy gets skilled workers — everyone benefits. These are just two examples of what I'd do as governor, but here's the bottom line — if we continue on our current path, we'll be here in 20 years and nothing will have changed. To make progress, we have to zero-in on solutions that are tested and shown to be effective. That's why I'm running for governor: Let's do what works.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Public safety and police reform are not "either-or" — we need both to keep Marylanders safe. Every Marylander deserves a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. Although Maryland experienced a major drop in violent crime from the mid-1990s to 2014, we've seen no progress since then and a reversal in Baltimore and surrounding areas. Reducing violent crime will be a top priority of the Baron-Williams administration. We'll fund crime-fighting strategies that are shown to produce big reductions in violent crime while building community trust. For example, we'll expand Focused Deterrence — an approach which recognizes that most violent crimes are committed by a relatively small number of individuals who are repeat violent offenders. These individuals are invited to meet with community leaders, social service agencies, and law enforcement. The meetings offer positive support, such as jobs and counseling, while also making clear that continued violence will prompt a strong, focused response from law enforcement. This strategy has been found extremely promising in other cities, including Oakland, California — where it was associated with a 50% reduction in homicides. Regarding police

reform — the murders of George Floyd and Freddie Gray and similar incidents have exposed deep racial inequities in our justice system. This is a fundamental issue of human rights — indeed, life and death — and it is extremely important to me. I'm proud that Maryland has led the country in enacting major police reforms. But there's a critical missing piece I would bring as governor to the implementation of these reforms — rigorous testing to determine which are most effective (and should be expanded), and which are not (and should be revised or ended). For example, there are many types of police training, and we urgently need to determine which work best to reduce misconduct and build community trust.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I'm a very strong supporter of such partnerships — in fact, I founded and ran a nonprofit for 14 years that partnered with the Bush and Obama Administrations and Congress to advance major reforms in social spending programs, leading to big gains in education, wages, and healthcare. A number of the proven programs that our administration will expand — in education, workforce development, healthcare, and other areas — were developed, and are delivered by, nonprofit organizations (including, as one example, Jewish Vocational Services). Our administration will work very closely with these organizations in the design, delivery, and scale-up of such proven programs across the state.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

All Marylanders should have access to safe and affordable housing. I believe that Maryland should increase the supply of affordable housing through common-sense zoning reforms similar to those recently enacted in California and Oregon — such as allowing homeowners in areas zoned for single-family housing to build a small accessory dwelling ("granny flat") on their property, or allowing duplexes. These changes would not alter neighborhoods in major ways (e.g., no high-rises). Studies suggest these changes would substantially increase the supply of affordable housing if implemented statewide. My administration would test this zoning reform, initially as a sizable demonstration project in interested Maryland counties, and see whether it produces the expected increase in affordable

housing. We should also expand housing vouchers for families currently in unstable housing or shelter. Such vouchers have been shown to reduce family homelessness by 50% at a very modest net cost to the government — because the cost of the vouchers is largely offset by the reduced cost of emergency shelter and food assistance. We also need to ensure that the state is properly distributing the rental relief funds made available from recent federal legislation.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Security concerns at synagogues and other houses of worship are very real — and addressing those concerns is something I'll take very seriously as governor. The freedom to congregate and worship any religion safely is a fundamental American liberty, and a basic human right — and recent horrific events such as the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh and antisemitic incidents here in Maryland have underscored the importance of protecting that right. As governor, I'll work with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that places of worship have adequate security resources. I also strongly support allocating federal grant dollars, as Maryland has done in the past, so that places of worship can request and obtain security resources that they may need to address these concerns. In the long term, we also need to take proactive steps to reduce incidence of hate and bias towards all religions and groups. There are several promising approaches that we could bring to Maryland — as one example, the Anti-Defamation League has a K-12 program known as No Place For Hate that consists of school-wide activities focused on bias and bullying prevention, diversity, and inclusion. We should test this and many other approaches to see which actually makes a meaningful impact on youth attitudes and behaviors, and invest significantly in those that do. These are the types of bold, innovative steps we must take to create a society that thrives on our diversity and where everyone belongs.

#### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I'm a proud Jewish Marylander and strong supporter of Israel. I strongly oppose the BDS movement. Israel is our ally and a critical democracy. While democracy in Israel, as in other countries, is not perfect (I have been critical of some actions in the occupied territories) — it's important to recognize, when it comes to minority rights, that Arab citizens of Israel have seats in the legislature and are part of the current ruling coalition. That said, I also believe anti-BDS laws are

counterproductive. They can be an infringement of rights to free speech and peaceful protest, and they're unlikely to be effective — many companies are investing in Israel, and anti-BDS laws' main effect may be to just give the BDS movement free publicity.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I'm a strong supporter of Israel. Israel is a critical economic and political partner for our country, and I believe we can further forge meaningful partnerships between our own state and Israel. Initiatives like the Maryland/Israel Development Center have already demonstrated the capability of private and public entities in Maryland to work with Israel to foster economic growth in both states. I support continuing this collaborative work, and exploring other ways to strengthen economic and cultural ties between Maryland and Israel.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I've proposed a bold, systematic plan to reduce carbon emissions in Maryland. We can be proud of the progress we've already made in reducing these emissions — our participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state "cap and trade" system for reducing carbon emissions, has been a great success (the RGGI states together have reduced power plant carbon emissions by 47% since RGGI's launch in 2009). Thanks to RGGI and other policy initiatives, Maryland has led the nation in cutting carbon emissions from all sources — with a 38% overall reduction since the mid-2000s. As governor, I'll focus on expanding these remarkably successful regional efforts. We'll build on RGGI's success by joining the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P). Like RGGI, TCI-P is a multi-state initiative that aims to lower greenhouse gas emissions through a cap-and-trade approach. TCI focuses on cutting carbon emissions in the transportation sector from gasoline and diesel fuel consumption — which currently accounts for 36% of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. TCI-P aims to reduce transportation-related emissions in participating states by 26% by 2032. As we work to further reduce carbon emissions, we'll also work to strengthen the resilience of communities that have been impacted by climate change. One way we'll do this is by promoting sustainable investment through Environmental Impact Bonds, to help local governments fund green infrastructure and environmental resilience projects. We'll also ensure low-income and rural communities are not adversely affected by climate policies. For example, TCI-P's sale of emission permits will generate revenue that should be used to fully offset any adverse economic effects in these communities (resulting, for example, from slightly higher fuel costs). The revenue should also be invested in environmental justice initiatives, such as curbing air pollution from the Baltimore trash incinerator that is especially damaging to nearby disadvantaged communities.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

The decision about whether to become a parent, and when, is just about the most consequential decision a person can make in life. The idea that that decision, starting at the moment of conception, should be made by the government and not by the woman — that it can be compelled by the government — is absolutely abhorrent. It is the opposite of conservative: it is government intrusion into the most important personal decisions of our lives. I am strongly pro-choice, and I believe abortion rights should be protected in our state's constitution.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

In general, I don't support diverting large amounts of public funding towards private schools. However, BOOST is a relatively small program that provides modest funding to low-income families who have particular educational needs, and I support its continuation at current funding levels.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

In general, I don't support diverting large amounts of public funding towards private schools. However, there may be exceptional programs that warrant state funding, and we would consider these on a case-by-case basis.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

The lack of affordable assisted living options in our state is a serious issue. Over the last several months, I've met with many seniors in assisted living facilities who are struggling to get by — with rising costs of rent and the lack of key services, like regular health screenings. Our administration will pursue bold, innovative solutions in this area. As one example, there is a highly-promising approach called Cash and Counseling, which allows older adults needing ongoing care to stay in their home (as opposed to moving to an assisted living or nursing facility), and use Medicaid funding to purchase their own personal care services — often from a family member or friend. When tested in New Jersey and other states, this approach substantially increased the seniors' satisfaction with their care as well as their overall life satisfaction. We should test this and other innovative approaches here in Maryland, initially as sizable demonstration projects, and — if found effective — expand them statewide.

## **Peter Franchot**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

In this answer and throughout the questionnaire, I am committed to providing you with answers that I will hold concretely to as governor, rather than saying yes to everything only to backtrack once in office. I have a track record of consistent and unequivocal candor matched with decades of public service, and that should give you the assurance that these answers are offered in good faith. I became a public servant because I want to level the playing field and improve the quality of life for ALL Marylanders. I have spent the past 16 years serving as the State's Comptroller. My extensive track record in public service has demonstrated that I know the unique issues that Marylanders encounter, and I have successfully implemented solutions to solve their problems. My running mate, Monique, and I are the only candidates that have the executive local and statewide experience to hit the ground running on Day 1. We are committed to always put the people over political rhetoric.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

The Governor must have an integrative approach to address challenges within the State. We need to empower students and teachers, generate family supporting jobs, foster safe communities, and make Maryland a leader in addressing climate change. Marylanders have trusted me to guide our finances as comptroller, and I have delivered results that improved the quality of life for all Marylanders. Most recently, I called for a gas tax holiday to alleviate the financial burden for gas for hard-working families. This has put money back into people's pockets. My priority will be to make the government efficient at tackling the kitchen table issues in every sector. As a sign of good faith, within the first six months of my term I will fix every pothole and clean all the trash on state roads, and answer every Marylander's call to state agencies within 60-seconds with a live, friendly, trained professional. This will establish trust in the competence of government, as we then implement landmark policies such as creating 100,000 family supporting jobs by partnering with the private sector and unions, building a world class transit system, and making Maryland the first net zero state in the country through initiatives such as requiring the entire fleet of state vehicles to convert to electric.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I have zero tolerance for crime, and zero tolerance for police misconduct. I believe that we can walk and chew gum at the same time, and I recognize that we must broaden our understanding of crime not just in terms of the causes that lead to it, but also the impacts that it creates within a community. From stalling the economic vitality of a neighborhood main street, to creating trauma for children who grow up proximate to violence, crime is both a product of and driver for the social context in which it exists. As governor, I will approach public safety through a lens that situates it within this broader social context rather than seeking to treat it as a stand alone challenge to be addressed. To reduce crime, we must address the factors that induce crime. Lack of economic opportunity is paramount in this respect, not only for first-time

offenders, but also for returning citizens whose struggle to find steady, good-paying employment lends itself to an increased likelihood of recidivism. I have a bold goal of reducing the recidivism rate at least 50% by 2030. I will also coordinate local, state, and federal resources to target violent repeat offenders. On a regular basis we will enforce arrest warrants in hotzones statewide to ensure that every person feels safe in their communities. I will also promote community policing, and treat addiction as a public health crisis by piloting a statewide, pre-arrest diversion program for arrestees who suffer from addiction and support returning citizens with temporary housing, job training, and placement.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I believe that partnering with nonprofit organizations are vital to ensure a safe and fiscally equitable State. I am committed to increasing the budget for the State's grant programs to better support nonprofits, and establishing a revolving fund that quickly reimburses them for the important work they do in our communities especially in times of need or crisis, without putting them through the long waiting periods and onerous paperwork they experience now.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

My administration will seek to provide state-backed mortgage loans to people who have been left on the margins and serve our communities the opportunity to not only have a place to raise their families but to create generational wealth, especially for Marylanders who have been left behind. This pairs well with augmenting live where you work programs, and other targeted financial incentives that benefit industries like teachers — one of my key programs in that respect is student loan forgiveness for those who live, work, and pay taxes in Maryland for 5 years after graduation. These are intended to compliment one another to make Maryland a more attractive place to move to or remain in, while also creating true paths to economic stability.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

I have no tolerance for any crime, and hate crime must have a special focus from leadership. People who commit hate crimes will be held accountable. Our state troopers, U.S. Marshalls, local government, and my newly introduced Secretary of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Secretary of Faith-Based Initiatives will work in tandem with the local synagogues and other faith-based agencies to hear concerns and properly address them to ensure that everyone is safe. I also believe that requires representation from the community on the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, so that you can play an active role in setting policy on an ongoing basis. We must be proactive, and its core, I believe that also includes addressing the climate from which hate crimes arise. Maryland's governor must be visibly present in and supportive of Jewish communities across the state.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I believe that Israel has a right to exist, and I do not support any actions from any movement that undercut that right, including BDS.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

As the Chief Financial Officer of the State, I believe that the best way to continue to grow our economy is through a free-enterprise model. Maryland and Israel have shared a strong economic partnership and my administration will continue to build upon that relationship. That includes commerce trips to relationship build within Israel, strong communication around the procurement process so potential partners understand how to navigate opportunities with the state, and partnering with leaders within Maryland's community to facilitate guidance on how to continue to foster an attractive business climate for international partners who can augment our economy.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Addressing environmental issues will be a top priority for my administration. I will adopt an

integrative approach, and all policies I implement will be evaluated based on their sustainability. I have pledged to work toward making Maryland the first net-zero state in the US and a net supplier of renewable energy. I will sign two executive orders that require all energy consumed by state government entities to be created by one-hundred percent renewable energy where possible, with a mandate for full conversion by the end of my first term; require more renewable energy to be created within Maryland than all energy consumed within the state. I will also pilot a progressive electricity cost model that caps the cost of electricity at a percentage of household income for our most vulnerable households. Investing in renewable energy infrastructure is not only about creating jobs, but about reversing environmental, social, and economic injustices. Finally, as the federal government does with its Climate Envoy, I am committed to creating a cabinet level position that will work hand-in-hand with our state agencies to develop a vision for Maryland's environmental health, and aid in the implementation as we tackle climate change both in the state, and regionally. As the largest estuary in the United States, and one of Maryland's most prized natural resources, the Chesapeake Bay runs across six states in the East-Coast. It is vital that our climate change policies reflect the geographical range of one of our State's most prized resources. This appointee will also be responsible for publicly issuing a report on Maryland's environmental health, and outlining priority action items for the administration. This will position Maryland to be a leader in best practices that will secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

Access to abortion care services for Marylanders and neighboring states will be a significant issue that we need to address as legal battles over access continue. I will always protect a women's right to choose, and that includes allocating state funding to go toward abortion care training, allowing advanced practice clinicians to provide these services, and expanding Medicare to cover abortion care.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I have committed to continuing BOOST, and doubling the funding for it. I do believe we need to take care to ensure these funds are allocated on the basis of need, however, and that funds are received by schools that offer a welcoming environment for all students.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I fully support providing State support toward wrap-around services in nonpublic schools through initiatives such as public-private partnerships. My experience as Comptroller makes me uniquely qualified to ensure that the taxpayers money is invested in programs where the community will see an improvement in its quality of life. Access to and utilization of these services is often improved all the more if they are offered by trusted providers who understand the community and its needs, irrespective of public status.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

My administration will alleviate the tax burden for our seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes that do not increase even though the cost of living does. We will also work to incentivize more service providers to accept Medicaid and Medicare, by supplementing the disbursements for care. This approach also requires a better approach to development for our housing options. We need to incentivize more dense development, with a focus on walkable and transit oriented communities. This creates more affordable living spaces that are also more accommodating and accessible for seniors. Finally, my administration will also implement a mentorship program for seniors that pairs them with students in our school systems. They will receive a tax break for participating, but they will also receive the benefit of engagement that pushes back on the social isolation so many of our seniors experience as they age. Moreover, they will experience the value of being able to pass on knowledge and experience to young people in their communities, who also stand to benefit from the engagement.

## Doug Gansler



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am running for governor to make Maryland safe. Crime is exploding across the state, and as governor I will bring crime down and justice up. I am the only candidate in the race with a scintilla of experience in the

criminal justice system. In fact, I devoted a 22-year career to reducing crime – first as a federal prosecutor, then as Montgomery County State’s Attorney, and then as Attorney General. I led the Joint Sniper Task Force that captured the Beltway Sniper in 22 days, then successfully prosecuted that case. I have prosecuted murderers and sex offenders, even winning a child sex abuse case before the United States Supreme Court by 9-0. As Montgomery County State’s Attorney, I also instituted forward-looking criminal justice reforms, including the first drug and domestic violence dockets in the state. We were also the first office in the nation to fully implement community prosecution. I could further point to my service as the Attorney General serving every department of Maryland state government, or the billions I secured to keep Maryland residents in their homes after the mortgage foreclosure crisis, or securing historic fines against corporate polluters to protect our Bay and environment. But what I want people to know about my experience is that when a problem is put before me I will work for them to solve it. Just as I led the charge for marriage equality, I will fight for the people of Maryland, for your families and your community. Finally, I would note that in addition to being the most qualified candidate in the race, I am also the only viable Jewish candidate in the race. I have four Jewish grandparents, so Jewish voters can be confident that I will honor our Jewish values in every decision I make.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1) Make Maryland safe by bringing crime down and justice up. That means hiring 1,000 more police officers across the state, installing 10,000 lights in the City of Baltimore, ensuring police are better paid and better trained, solving every shooting, getting guns out of the hands of violent offenders, and putting armed School Resource Officers in schools. My full crime plan, “Safe Maryland,” can be read on my website at douggansler.com. 2) I was known as the Environmentalist Attorney General, and I will do the work to be known as the Environmentalist Governor. That means cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and putting Maryland on a solid path to a 100 percent clean energy economy. My 32-point Green Maryland Plan, which has been called “ambitious” by the publication Maryland Matters, includes planks to expand mass transit, incentivize the construction of electric vehicle charging stations, and develop a state-of-the-art plant that will convert the poultry waste getting dumped into the Bay each year into renewable energy. 3) Mental health care is fundamental to people’s ability to hold a job, succeed in school, and contribute to their communities. I will work to make mental health care accessible to all Marylanders by building 10 regional mental health centers throughout the state, each to be staffed with psychiatrists, social workers and therapists. I will also ensure every school has at least one mental health professional for every 250 students. My full “Mental Health Matters” plan can be viewed at douggansler.com.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

All candidates agree that we must address the root causes of crime by investing in our communities — that means ensuring everyone has access to a good job, a good education, and good health care. I will also fast track-funding for community infrastructure like youth recreation centers to high-crime areas. But as the only pragmatic, pro-public safety candidate in the race, I recognize that we have to address crime immediately by hiring more police officers. As governor, I will fund 1,000 more police officers for local law enforcement agencies across the state, and I will make sure police are better-paid and better-trained, including in de-escalation tactics. I will also require officers to have at least two years of community college. We must hold bad officers accountable while also recognizing that the vast majority of officers are serving our communities honorably. As Montgomery County State’s Attorney, I put every police shooting in front of a grand jury so that the community could decide whether a shooting was justified, and I will do the same as governor. My Safe Maryland Plan, which you can read in full on my website, also calls for installing 10,000 lights in Baltimore, placing armed School Resource Officers in schools, solving every murder, and getting guns out

of the hands of violent offenders. I will also require every jurisdiction to have drug courts, domestic violence courts, and community prosecution so that prosecutors get to know who the good and bad actors are by neighborhood. In short, my proven record of reducing crime is what distinguishes me from every other candidate in the field. If you want someone prepared to address this crisis, you should vote for me. If you can accept the continued rise in violent crime, you should vote for someone else.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

Public partnership with nonprofits is vital for reaching those most in need in our communities. The nonprofits are often the groups closest to the people most in need and are well-positioned to effectively provide services. We should fund community groups of all kinds to expand their capacity to deliver for those they serve.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?

My administration will address affordable housing from both the supply and income sides. We need more housing of all types in Maryland, especially missing middle housing so that the middle class can afford to live near their jobs. My administration will work to increase the supply of market rate housing and subsidized housing, particularly near public transportation and city centers. This will help reduce people’s monthly expenses by making it easier for them to live and commute without a car. We also need to adhere to the principles of Smart Growth so that we are protecting our environment from uncontrolled sprawl. The increased supply will help bring down the average cost of housing, but we also must subsidize the cost of housing for the lowest-income Marylanders. That means increasing vouchers and voucher acceptance and giving tax breaks so that government employees can afford to live in the communities they serve.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

As both a Jewish man and as a prosecutor who has dedicated my career to fighting violent crime, this issue is deeply personal to me. As Montgomery County State’s Attorney and as Attorney General, I worked with Shomrim and the leadership of Ner Israel to combat crime targeted against the Orthodox community. As governor, I will provide state support for security at synagogues and other houses of worship if desired by their leadership. It will not be an added tax that Jewish Marylanders face for going to shul. More broadly, I am the one candidate in this race with a background in fighting crime and the only candidate who is laser-focused on reducing gun violence in Maryland. I will get guns out of the hands of violent offenders and will fund our police so that the people of Maryland feel safe.

### What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

I oppose the BDS movement against Israel and will support the Maryland BDS ban. On a related note, as Attorney General, I co-authored a letter with Georgia’s Republican Attorney General Sam Olens to encourage Congress to divest from companies doing business with Iran. I wrote an op-ed on this issue for the Wall Street Journal in 2013, which is still available online.

### What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?

My first overseas business trip as Governor will be my fourth trip to Israel, where I plan to cement the bond between Israel and Maryland businesses. When I was in 10th grade, I lived on a kibbutz in the north of Israel and it left a great impression on me. It showed me that people can work closely together, and that informs my view of the potential for the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel. I also had the honor of meeting Shimon Peres in Israel when I was Attorney General. I’m proud of the existing economic connections between Maryland and Israel, like those supported by the Maryland Israel Development Center. In particular, Israel has a lot to offer us on water and climate technologies, which will help us adapt to and reverse climate change.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

I will make Maryland a national leader in fighting climate change. My 32-point plan Green Maryland plan, which has been called “ambitious” by the publication

Maryland Matters, includes planks to: Convert the State of Maryland’s entire fleet of light duty vehicles from fuel-powered to electric within five years. Incentivize the private construction of modern electric and battery-powered vehicle charging stations that actually fit the lifestyles and commuting patterns of Maryland motorists. Initiate construction on four Gigawatts of offshore wind generation by 2026. Work closely with the private sector toward the development of a state-of-the-art plant that would convert poultry waste into renewable energy. Require that all public school, college and university construction projects funded by the State obtain at least a portion of their electricity from renewable energy sources, proportional to the State’s contribution to the project. Provide state technical and funding support for cities and towns to establish clean energy “microgrids” that will provide renewable energy and make smaller communities more economically viable. Increase the amount of funding and technical support available within the State of Maryland to incentivize wind energy development. Expand the use of state-owned properties – such as state universities, corrections facilities, Program Open Space land banks and State Highway Administration surplus properties – as available leased or purchased spaces for solar farms. Amend existing school funding formulas to enable the State to expand its contributions to schools that are heated and cooled by geothermal energy. Address the significant “heat gap” that exists in urban communities through an unprecedented investment in tree planting, permeable sidewalk construction, public parks, open spaces and community gardens.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

I have always stood with women in defending the right to safe and affordable abortion care. For example, as Attorney General, I challenged a proposed federal rule under the Bush administration that would have shielded doctors who refused to provide abortion care. Guns have more rights than women in America. Elections have consequences, and blue states need blue governors. The governor appoints judges in Maryland, the very same judges who will be interpreting laws around women’s reproductive rights. We cannot take established protections for reproductive freedom for granted. As governor, I will not only be a brick wall against any attack on women’s reproductive rights, but I will also work to help women from other states come to Maryland to receive the abortion care that they would otherwise be denied should the draft decision to overturn Roe v. Wade come to fruition.

### What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?

The state is flush with cash right now, and we can adequately fund our public schools while also increasing funding for the BOOST program so that Jewish and other religious schools are accessible to parents who want to make that choice for their children.

### What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?

I support and will increase state funding for non-public schools in these areas, especially security.

### How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?

More than 21,000 low income older adults and people with disabilities in Maryland are on waiting lists for critical Medicaid Home and Community-Based services. These services include assistance with personal care, such as showering and dressing, as well as job coaching and transportation assistance. Other states do not have a waiting list for these critical services. Because of the shortage, parents have to worry about whether their loved one will receive needed support when they pass away. And as a result of the low payment rates providers receive, many direct care workers, who are predominantly immigrants and people of color, are forced to work two to three jobs. For people with disabilities the turnover rate among direct care workers is too high, nearly 45% nationwide, which undermines continuity of care. The Gansler-Hollingsworth administration pledges that the waiting list for HCBS services will be at zero by the end of our second term. Solving this issue requires investment in facilities and employment. Our administration will work with the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) to ensure their members have the financial resources they need to do this critical work. We will also do more to promote the development

disabilities income Maryland tax checkoff so that our waiting list can be further reduced. And we will also provide robust support and higher pay for providers to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, so that disabled Marylanders get the care they deserve.

## Ralph Jaffe

Did not submit a response.

## Ashwani Jain

Did not submit a response.

## John King



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As US Secretary of Education under President Obama, I managed a department with a budget over \$15 billion bigger than the state of Maryland’s, and I will bring that executive leadership to the Governor’s

office. After the Obama administration, I continued working for the public good as the president of the Education Trust, an education civil rights organization. In 2020, I founded Strong Future Maryland to advocate for progressive policies in Maryland in our recovery from the pandemic and fought to pass progressive legislation in Annapolis across a wide range of areas including education, housing, the environment, and economic dignity.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

I want to fully fund and expand upon the Blueprint for education (including universal affordable childcare birth-to-5), speed up our path to a \$15 minimum wage and index it to inflation so it’s a living wage and make record investments in our public transportation like finishing the Purple Line, building the Red Line in Baltimore, and expanding the MARC west with more frequent, all-day, bidirectional service.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I do not believe we need to pit public safety and police reform against each other as opposing goals. Police reform is necessary for public safety. We cannot have public safety when people do not trust law enforcement and when law enforcement is perpetrating wrongs against people it should be protecting. We need to reimagine public safety, and put funding towards violence prevention programs like Safe Streets Baltimore, reentry supports for returning citizens, addiction treatment, mental health services including crisis response teams, and after-school and summer jobs programs we have seen actually do prevent violence. We must also increase police accountability and transparency, like having the state take a more aggressive role in setting up and enforcing the county accountability boards.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

As we saw with vaccine distribution, nonprofit organizations can be tremendous partners in delivering services by leveraging deep knowledge of their communities and profound trust. A King-Siri administration will partner with nonprofit organizations to deliver universal, affordable childcare birth-to-5, mobilize recent college graduates and retired teachers to address the academic and socioemotional needs of students as we recover from the disruptions in children’s lives due to COVID, provide desperately needed elder care, offer adult literacy and ESL programs, and much more.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?

We need to reform our outdated, racist zoning laws that are left over from the days of redlining. We must allow for high-density, multifamily housing – particularly need public transit hubs – and walkable neighborhoods and relax minimum parking requirements so that space can be prioritized for housing people, not cars. Transit-oriented development will both make for walkable communities and an opportunity for small businesses. Additionally, the state needs to use its historically underutilized affordable housing trust fund to finance and build affordable housing units and create a state bank that will help borrowers that can’t get mortgages through a traditional lender secure a home loan. This will reduce our housing shortage and keep people in stable housing.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

We need law enforcement to target resources towards preventing these hate crimes and taking threats of violence seriously. With antisemitic and racist attacks increasing, it's clear we are not devoting enough time or effort to combat them. We also must crack down on disinformation and roll out public education campaigns and strategies to dispel the conspiracy theories hate groups latch onto, including "The Great Replacement Theory." Most importantly, we need stricter gun control, like stronger federal background checks and stronger state laws to prevent child access, so it becomes harder for deadly firearms to get into the hands of these extremists.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I do not support BDS – I support Israel's right to exist and believe in a two-state solution. While I think the BDS movement is counterproductive, I do not believe the government should dictate how people protest. Gov. Hogan's executive order on not allowing state contractors to participate in BDS actions drew a legal challenge, and while it was ultimately upheld, I believe similar actions could continue to draw challenges. I support Israel's right to exist, however we must respect every Marylander's Constitutional rights, and the state cannot violate the right to protest.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

As governor, I will work to strengthen the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel to enhance the market for Maryland products and attract investment in Maryland businesses.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

We have not done enough in Maryland to combat climate change and we should be a leader on this issue. Our goal should be to reach net-zero emissions by 2035, reaching a carbon-free electricity sector by 2030, and eliminating biomass and trash incineration from the renewable portfolio standard. We also need to invest in public transit, replace the state fleet of vehicles (including public transit buses and school buses) with 100% electric vehicles by 2030, and encourage and support transitioning all personal vehicles in the state to zero-emission through incentives, education and building 10,000 fast-electric charging stations.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I will protect the right to abortion in Maryland. This means not just keeping it legal, but making it accessible as well. Over two-thirds of Maryland counties do not have an abortion provider. My administration will protect existing clinics and fully fund the training included in the ACA so that we don't just have the right to an abortion on paper, but also in practice. Maryland should also be a North Star for the country for abortion rights, ensuring adequate providers and legal protections for people traveling from other states.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I oppose continuing the BOOST program. I have not seen evidence that it has improved outcomes, and I believe that public funds belong in public schools with public accountability. While I deeply respect the right of parents to choose a private school for their child, the state should not be sending tax dollars to private schools.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

Again, I believe public funds are for public schools. With the need to fully fund the Blueprint, and with public schools in Maryland like those in Baltimore that are badly in need of improvements like working air conditioning, we should not be subsidizing services at nonpublic schools with state funds.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

My administration will increase the Senior Assisted Living Group Home subsidy, which is currently only

\$650 a month while the average cost of assisted living in Maryland is \$4,673 per month, and there are strict asset limits to qualify. I will also increase the Home and Community-Based Services waiver funding, which currently only has room for 3,000 participants. Our asset limits on assistance are also, in my opinion, far too low and out of date, and force seniors to face being in poverty before they can qualify for assistance. I will also support zoning reform to make it easier to build more housing facilities in the first place.

## **Wes Moore**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

The challenges Maryland is facing are not going to be solved with the same recycled ideas. While most of my opponents will claim that they will fix the systems leaving people behind, many of them won't acknowledge that their fingerprints are all over the system. Maryland needs a leader with the experience, a unique perspective, and a bold vision to take our state forward and solve the challenges that have plagued our state for generations. My background and experience leading in every sector of the American economy stand in stark contrast to every candidate in this race and I encourage every voter to check my receipts. I volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan where I led soldiers in combat as a captain and a paratrooper. I built and ran a small business in Baltimore focused on helping first-generation college students succeed—helping to improve graduation rates by 20%. As CEO of one of the nation's largest poverty-fighting organizations, we invested over \$600 million into transportation, housing, education, food insecurity, and criminal justice and worked the halls of government advocating for the child tax credit, better pay for childcare providers, and fighting hospital networks that sued COVID patients. Above all, we were data-driven and heart-led. We found what works, we invested in it, and we scaled it. I have experience working with Maryland's legislators, including Senator Antonio Hayes on unfair appraisal values, and Speaker Adrienne Jones on her groundbreaking Black Agenda. I also worked with members of the legislature to pass the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, testifying on behalf of this groundbreaking legislation, and helping to whip votes to ensure it passed. My record speaks for itself. In the military we learned a mantra, leave nobody behind, and together with your support, we will give you the partner you deserve in Annapolis.

My background and experience leading in every sector of the American economy stand in stark contrast to every candidate in this race and I encourage every voter to check my receipts. I volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan where I led soldiers in combat as a captain and a paratrooper. I built and ran a small business in Baltimore focused on helping first-generation college students succeed—helping to improve graduation rates by 20%. As CEO of one of the nation's largest poverty-fighting organizations, we invested over \$600 million into transportation, housing, education, food insecurity, and criminal justice and worked the halls of government advocating for the child tax credit, better pay for childcare providers, and fighting hospital networks that sued COVID patients. Above all, we were data-driven and heart-led. We found what works, we invested in it, and we scaled it. I have experience working with Maryland's legislators, including Senator Antonio Hayes on unfair appraisal values, and Speaker Adrienne Jones on her groundbreaking Black Agenda. I also worked with members of the legislature to pass the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, testifying on behalf of this groundbreaking legislation, and helping to whip votes to ensure it passed. My record speaks for itself. In the military we learned a mantra, leave nobody behind, and together with your support, we will give you the partner you deserve in Annapolis.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

No matter your start in life, you deserve an equal opportunity to succeed – a job you can raise a family on, a future you can look forward to. Creating opportunities for people to step into better jobs, earn higher wages, and build wealth that people can pass down to their children – especially for underserved communities – is the North Star that will guide my administration when I'm governor. I will create opportunities for work through strengthening affordable pathways to higher education and fixing our broken child care system. I will secure better wages by raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2023 and addressing wage theft hurting workers. And I will ensure that every Marylander has opportunities to create wealth by making housing more affordable, and ensuring procurement agencies reach their goals for Minority Business Enterprise contracts. We must use this once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a stronger, more inclusive economy for every Marylander. Together we will create a brighter future for Maryland. In the military we learned a mantra, "leave nobody behind" and that's exactly what I'll do as governor.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I'm proud to be the first candidate to release a comprehensive public safety plan because I recognize keeping people safe is the first and highest responsibility of any chief executive. I believe in policing with maximum accountability and appropriate intensity, bringing together federal, state, and local resources together to prevent crime. We need to invest in proven community-based violence intervention programs that deal with all levels of trauma and build strong partnerships with communities and law enforcement to identify individuals at risk of violence, connect them to essential resources and interrupt lethal cycles of violence. And finally, our administration will reform Maryland's probation and parole system by filling every vacant position, ensuring strong supervision of high-risk individuals, and leveraging local offices to connect people to behavioral health treatment, housing, and employment. When I am governor, I will act swiftly

and with urgency to keep Marylanders safe. Building a strong foundation of trust between law enforcement and the communities they are charged with serving and protecting is how we make people feel safer and how we ensure law enforcement can be effective at preventing and solving crime. That trust depends on strong accountability and transparency measures, which is why it is a cornerstone of my comprehensive public safety plan. As CEO of one of the nation's largest organizations fighting poverty, our organization worked with local leaders to spearhead historic police reforms, and we were successful because we brought diverse stakeholders to the table to find solutions. That is exactly what I'll do as Maryland's next governor. I will always act swiftly and with urgency to keep Marylanders safe.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Our number one priority as a state, whether in education, health care, transportation or other areas, must be to provide the highest level of service to the people we serve. Additional non-profit partnerships have the potential to better serve the people of Maryland and serve as a force multiplier to the state's work. However, we have to be certain that we are protecting public sector jobs and building capacity within state government to meet the public's needs. We must have a strong public sector to have an effective government and our public agencies and systems should be able to stand on their own. We will always work closely with non-profit organizations to amplify and bolster the work we are doing to serve our communities. As the CEO of one of the nation's largest anti-poverty organizations, I understand bringing everyone to the table is key to tackling our biggest challenges and we will not be able to tackle the challenges our state is facing without leveraging every dollar and idea available from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. I think about climate change which is devastating our communities, costing us \$10 billion in the past decade, and putting our communities at risk. Everyone has a role to play in addressing this crisis because this crisis is impacting everyone. We are going to need the public sector, private sector, community organizations, philanthropy, and people across this state to tackle this urgent crisis.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Maryland is short 85,000 rental units for its lowest-income households and with our state expected to see an increase of nearly 100,000 low-income households by 2030, which will worsen this shortage if we fail to act now. Additionally, the cost to rent in Maryland is the third highest in the nation. It is unacceptable for Marylanders to be paying more than 20% of their income towards rent. Yet with the average Marylander making \$3,510 and paying \$1,392 every month in rent, the average person is paying almost 40% of their income. We must focus on producing more affordable housing, preserving existing affordable housing units, and protecting renters. As governor, our administration is going to expand Maryland's Affordable Housing Trust Fund and create a dedicated source of revenue for organizations to build and maintain affordable housing units. But more broadly, we must continue to expand opportunities for work, wages, and wealth for every family in Maryland, with a commitment to equity, to address underlying affordability issues.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

As the next Governor of Maryland, our administration will never tolerate hate or discrimination in any form and we will always take immediate action to dismantle it. That starts with working together with our Jewish communities to listen to and understand the issues from those closest to the issues on the ground. Our administration will listen and understand what their needs are and honor them because I believe that those closest to the problem are closest to the solutions. That includes working to address the 17% increase in antisemitic incidents we've seen here in Maryland by creating partnerships with local law enforcement to ensure they are aware of and swiftly respond to any reported hate crimes or violence against Maryland's Jewish communities, and take appropriate steps to prevent and deter such crimes from happening in the first place.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am affirmatively against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

As governor, I would encourage Israeli companies looking for a US base to come to Maryland as part of my economic plan to build a thriving Maryland economy. Around 24 Israeli companies currently have offices in Maryland, and our state regularly exports over \$100 million in products to Israel every year. I believe that if we want to expand economic opportunity, we should be doing more to expand the economic partnerships between our states and other countries, and Israeli companies are a big part of that. As the next Governor of Maryland, that is exactly what I'll do.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Climate change is devastating our communities and inaction has cost us \$10 billion in the past decade and we can see the effects of climate change everywhere: in the air we breathe, the schools closed due to extreme heat and weather, and the 100-year storms we're seeing every five years. I believe there are three issues that will determine the success or failure of our state over the next decade: making our state more competitive, and also more equitable; closing the wealth gap, and protecting our climate. None of these are new issues. They are now issues and as governor, I will set aggressive targets to generate 100% clean energy by 2035, achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and implement solutions to address sea-level rise and extreme heat, prioritizing environmental justice throughout the process. This crisis needs a leader who will take this crisis seriously and who has the experience to leverage federal dollars and private capital to address the problem and create economic opportunities for Maryland's families. I have been battle-tested experience across sectors – including as CEO of one of the largest anti-poverty organizations in America – and my running mate former Delegate Aruna Miller and I have the comprehensive vision to bring people together to live up to the principle that I learned leading soldiers in combat – If we want different, we have to do different.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I have always been a strong proponent of reproductive freedoms and have consistently advocated for access to safe, legal abortion and other reproductive health care. As governor, I will continue to fight for reproductive freedoms and will oppose any efforts to restrict access to reproductive care in Maryland. The right to choose has never been more under attack in our nation, and while Maryland has taken steps to codify the right to an abortion, we must go further and enshrine this fundamental right in our constitution. As governor, I will work with the legislature and Maryland voters to get that done. I will build on the work of the legislature in the last session to advance reproductive rights by fighting to make access to reproductive care more affordable and accessible in every corner of our state. It is unacceptable that any person should be unable to access the critical health they need because of their ZIP code or their ability to pay. I look forward to working with those closest to the challenges to advance access to reproductive health care and fiercely defend and protect reproductive freedom.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

My commitment is for every Maryland student to have access to a world-class public education that families believe in and that meets the diverse needs of our students. I want to be crystal clear on this: as governor, my administration will phase out the BOOST program. I am very sensitive to the students that are already participating in the program and it's important that we don't disrupt their educational progress, but we would not grow the BOOST program like what has happened under the current administration. Again, my priority is to ensure every child has access to a quality public education, which is why I am so committed to the full implementation of the Blueprint.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

While I am firmly committed to ensuring the safety of every Maryland student and school, I support public dollars going to public schools.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options**

## for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?

Maryland is home to nearly 1.4 million people over the age of 60, and according to our most recent State Plan on Aging, we will see considerable growth in the older adult population in the next two decades. In fact, this age group is expected to grow to 1.7 million by 2040. Additionally, the population of Marylanders over the age of 85 will more than double in the same time period. This means Maryland's next governor must be prepared to expand public long-term services and support across health care, housing, and transportation. As governor, I am committed to improving access to affordable housing and supporting seniors' ability to safely age in place by funding additional slots and reducing wait times for the Community Options Waiver so seniors have access to home-based care, increasing access to remote patient monitoring, expanding access to funding for accessible home modifications and finding new ways to provide financial support to family caregivers. Our administration will also work to improve existing long-term care facilities by leveraging federal dollars to ensure better oversight and compliance, addressing staffing shortages, and fighting for better wages for nursing home staff.

## Tom Perez



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

My life's work fighting for jobs, justice and opportunity has uniquely prepared me to lead the state through this time of concurrent crises and unprecedented challenges. The next Governor needs to work

tirelessly to ensure that zip code never determines destiny, so that opportunities are available to everyone. The next Governor must also be the multitasker in chief, because we have many challenges to tackle— jobs, schools, public safety, health care, and racial equity to name a few. I worked with President Obama as both his Secretary of Labor and in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Starting my career working on the back of a garbage truck, I went on to serve my community by becoming a leader in the local, state, and federal government fighting for the rights of all Marylanders. This election presents an opportunity for generational change, and as your next Governor, I will be equipped to bring jobs, justice, and opportunities to Marylanders across the state.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Jobs, justice and opportunity. Maryland's next Governor must provide economic opportunities so Marylanders can provide for their families, start and grow businesses, and build generational wealth. As Governor, I will continue to fight for workers across Maryland by expanding collective bargaining and investing in public sector employees to ensure that the state never aids and abets poverty. I will also expand apprenticeship opportunities, particularly in high-demand high-paying sectors like offshore wind and biotech. These jobs must ensure that Marylanders can lead full lives outside of work too by guaranteeing paid family leave and increasing access to affordable childcare for families from all walks of life. In addition, education is the key to a prosperous future, and far too many students across Maryland are missing out on a good education. Maryland recently took historic action in passing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Our next Governor must fund and implement the Blueprint to ensure that resources are invested to

eliminate the equity gap and redress decades of underfunding of Maryland's schools. My administration will also expand access to broadband to ensure all students have the resources and technology of the 21st century. I will also recruit diverse educators, especially from HBCUs, increase teacher salaries, and improve teacher preparation programs to ensure that teachers that look like the students they serve. I know that accountable, constitutional policing and safe communities are inextricably intertwined. Our next Governor must also use data-driven policing and prosecution to effectively reduce crime. Nearly half of murders in Baltimore were committed by individuals who were on parole or probation, a system in dire need of more staffing and better strategy. In order for policing strategies to be effective, we need to build trust in our state's law enforcement by investing in best-practice hiring, training, early warning systems, use of force standards, and meaningful accountability. Part of this process must be restoring the rights and respect of formerly incarcerated Marylanders by ensuring that they have the right to vote, to sit on a jury of their peers, and to secure family-supporting jobs.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As a former federal prosecutor, I understand how to build meaningful partnerships between federal, state, and local officials to reduce violence. As the head of the DOJ's Civil Rights Division under President Obama, I know how to lead police reform because I've done it by recognizing that the most important tool officers have is the trust of the community. As Governor, I will put these skills to work and make the state a partner — not an adversary — to public safety across the state. I'll work closely with mayors, county executives, local police departments, and others to get illegal guns off our streets, support Safe Streets and other community-based efforts to interrupt violence, and provide staffing and resources so parole or probation officers can prioritize efforts to address those shown to commit a significant portion of violent crime. And we will work upstream by investing in educational access, transportation, employment opportunities, housing security, mental health supports, and beyond.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

When I served on the Montgomery County Council, we built strong partnerships with nonprofit organizations on a wide range of issues. For instance, we worked closely with nonprofit organizations serving immigrant communities. These organizations were important bridges between the community and the government. As Governor, I will continue building and sustaining these partnerships. My administration will support investments in Maryland nonprofits and local community foundations to provide capacity building and technical assistance to help small and emerging nonprofits doing meaningful and innovative work in the Jewish community.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?

Housing should be a right for all and not a privilege for a few. As Governor, I will work with partners across the state to make this value statement a reality. The housing shortages cut across every income category. That is, we must address the shortage of workforce housing. At the same time, we must address the

shortage of housing for people living at or near poverty, including people experiencing homelessness. As Governor, I will invest in affordable housing by fully funding Maryland's highly successful affordable housing program, the Rental Housing Works (RHW) and other state initiatives, overhaul our current eviction system to focus on keeping individuals in their homes through the expansion of rental assistance and eviction diversion programs, and pass state laws that promote diverse, inclusive communities. We must also identify parcels of state owned land that can be converted to affordable housing and utilize community benefit agreements to include affordable housing in transit oriented development.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

Over the last several years, we've seen a disturbing rise in antisemitism across our country -- including the attacks in Pittsburgh, Poway, Monsey, and now Colleyville. Antisemitism is a stain on our nation and on our world, and no one should ever feel unsafe to worship. We must come together to support our Jewish communities, uplift organizations working to protect the freedom to worship, and root out hatred and bigotry wherever it exists. I spent a substantial portion of my career at the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, including leading the Division during the first term of the Obama administration. I worked very closely with faith communities who had been victimized by hate crimes. I personally prosecuted a number of hate crimes cases, and also worked on the passage of the Church Arson Prevention Act in the mid 1990s, which was a federal response to the spate of arsons directly primarily at black churches in the South. As Governor, I will forge similar partnerships to ensure that our places of worship and faith based agencies feel safe and in fact are safe.

### What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?

If I have the opportunity to be Maryland's next governor, I will work hard to eradicate anti-semitism and discrimination wherever it exists. As governor, I support not entering into contracts with companies engaging in national origin discrimination in choosing subcontractors, suppliers, vendors, or employees except as required by sanction law. This includes sub-contractors, suppliers, vendors, or employees from Israel, as well as the rest of the world.

### What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?

I look forward to ensuring that there is a strong economic relationship between Maryland and Israel. Israel has been at the forefront of research on treatment for COVID, and I would ensure there are close ties as we continue to wrestle with a very wily virus. We will continue to nurture ties in the biotech sector. Finally, we have a strong cultural bond, and I will work to continue to invest in programs that enable us all to develop mutual understanding.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Climate change is the ultimate existential threat facing our neighborhoods, our state, our country, and our planet today — and we're running out of time to do something about it. As your governor, I will work to combat the cumulative impacts of climate change on our vulnerable communities and develop solutions

to this crisis that can provide lasting solutions, create good-paying, union jobs, and spur economic growth. Our administration is committed to making Maryland's electrical production 100% carbon-free by 2035 and cutting Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. To ensure Maryland meets these aggressive goals, our administration will appoint a cabinet-level Climate and Resilience Coordinator who will lead a multi-departmental and multidisciplinary approach to identify vulnerabilities in Maryland's current approach to climate and break down silos so that Maryland can take better advantage of opportunities for investment in the green energy economy.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

I strongly support the Roe v. Wade framework. A woman's right to choose is and should be her right. Yet, the Supreme Court is poised to overturn a precedent that is part of the fabric of our country. If this happens, I will work to enact a constitutional amendment enshrining Roe v. Wade. I will also ensure that clinics in Maryland have adequate security, and that we fund the recently enacted bill that, among other things, expands the list of providers who can perform abortions. I will also introduce legislation to ensure that any provider who gets sued for performing an abortion on a person from out of state, is represented free of charge by the office of the Attorney General.

### What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?

The BOOST program has provided low-income students the opportunity to attend private schools in their area. As Governor, I will prioritize providing public funding to public schools while continuing to fund the BOOST program at current levels.

### What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?

See prior answer.

### How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?

As Governor, I will support reforms that provide seniors with the quality of care they deserve by investing in our health system so those in need of long-term care have access to quality caregivers and safe and affordable housing. In our current system, individuals in need of long-term care are experiencing long waitlists and caregiver shortages. I will address this issue by increasing care-giver wages, investing in workforce development of caregivers, and improving systems to connect caregivers with people who need long-term care. I will also expand Medicaid waivers to ensure that everyone who needs home- and community-based services, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, has access to the support they need to live independently. By making this critical investment, we can enable Marylanders to stay in their homes with greater dignity, lower costs, and improved quality of life.

## Jerome Segal

Did not submit a response.

## Candidates For State Senator

### District 14- Democratic

#### Collins Odongo

Did not submit a response.

#### Craig Zucker



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

It has been an honor to serve as a State Senator for the past 7 years, and prior to that as a Delegate for 5 years. I am a fiscal leader in the senate serving on the powerful Senate Budget Committee. Prior to serving in elected office, I was

Deputy Chief of Staff to the Maryland Comptroller. I have more than 25 years of government and private sector experience. I have a track record of providing top-notch constituent service and delivering for my constituents. In addition, I am known for being a champion for those with developmental disabilities.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Ease the burden on working and unemployed families; increase services for those with developmental disabilities; and continue to provide responsive & respectful constituent service.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

It is crucial that all members of our community feel safe and that our men and women in law enforcement treat people fairly. Over the course of my tenure in

the legislature, I have supported laws that increase public safety for all Marylanders, including those in law enforcement. I have voted in favor of laws that crack down on violent crime. It is imperative law enforcement treats people equitably and we must all work to increase trust between police and the community.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?

Nonprofit organizations and small businesses are the backbones of our community. As the chairman of the Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee, I invested hundreds of millions of dollars in our area nonprofits for construction, renovations, and expansions. In addition, I was proud to help prevent cuts to adult daycare and other programs that serve our important Marylanders.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development

### and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?

This past session I sponsored legislation to review all of the Maryland State Government's surplus land to ascertain if it can be used for affordable housing. In addition, I was the floor leader on legislation that provided a first-time home buyers savings account. I supported property tax credits for our first responders and essential personnel. I also sponsored and passed legislation that provides funding to access counsel for those facing evictions.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?

The rise of hate crimes and antisemitism is very concerning. At Shaare Tefila, my synagogue, I am grateful for the security they have in place. Over

the years, I have approved and allocated funding for security upgrades for our Jewish organizations and schools as we continue to combat hate.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am against it.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

A strong relationship between Maryland and Israel is vital to our economy growing and staying innovative. Anything I can do in my capacity to strengthen that relationship, please count me in.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

To preserve our environment for future generations, I voted for the Climate Solutions Now Act, which requires MD to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. My legislation that I sponsored with Delegate Korman, the Zero Emission Bus Transition Act, supports this by prohibiting the MD Transit Administration (MTA) from buying non zero emission buses after 2023. I am proud to be endorsed by the Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am a strong supporter of women's reproductive rights. Over the years, I have fought off amendments to the budget that would have restricted them. In addition, this past session I supported and helped override a governor's veto of legislation that provides further accessibility of women to find a provider to assist them with their reproductive choices.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I have been consistent on this issue. I believe our priority needs to be on our public education system.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I have spent a considerable amount of time providing salary increases and bonuses to educators that work in nonpublic special education schools. I will continue to do what I can to invest capital funding in safety and security enhancements.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

I am committed to expanding Medicaid funding to assist those who are looking for affordable assisted living options. It has been an honor working alongside your organization to reject cuts to housing and vital programs that serve our community.

## **District 18- Democratic**

### **Max Socol**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I believe my unique background as a Jewish educator and community organizer makes me the right choice for our district. For the past seven years, I served as senior organizer and campaigns manager for Bend the Arc: Jewish

Action, where I successfully led campaigns for progressive policy change at the local and national level. I have trained hundreds of community leaders not just to understand political power, but to build it and wield it in pursuit of Jewish values like welcoming the stranger and honoring each person as made b'tzelem elohim. Because of my work, Bend the Arc leaders have successfully won campaigns for workers' rights, criminal justice reform, immigration reform, and more. Here in our community, I am proud to have co-founded local progressive organizations like the Silver Spring Justice Coalition and the Montgomery County Racial Equity Network, and to have led campaigns to protect renters from eviction and fight for police accountability in our state. A common misconception of local politics is that it is mostly a technical endeavor requiring a graduate degree in this or that policy area. This has not been my experience. Rather, what is required is the willingness to educate yourself about the policy issue and the community it impacts, the humility to build strong relationships with com-

munity leaders and advocates, and the skills to organize those leaders and advocates into formations that can win policy victories. As an education director in various Conservative and Reform Jewish institutions, I have been privileged to learn the power of relational organizing and constituent service from the best of the best—rabbis and cantors who care for their congregants every day. That learning is what has allowed me to be so successful in politics as an organizer, and I believe it will make me very successful as our next state senator.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I hope that I will have time to accomplish more than just three things. But my immediate priorities are to: transform Maryland's housing sector to get control of spiraling housing costs and make good on Democrats' stated commitment to housing as a human right; exceed Maryland's decarbonization goals by increasing building energy standards, canceling highway expansions, and shutting down to the state's remaining coal-based power plants; and continuing efforts to increase public safety by dealing with root-cause issues.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Any amount of violence in our communities is unacceptable, and all of us deserve to feel safe where we live and work. In Montgomery County, police report slight increases in crimes against persons and property. These slight increases have occurred within a broader, decades-long, steep decline in violence. Montgomery County today is safer than it was 20 years ago. Our county is also much safer than the average US community, thanks to our progress on gun violence prevention, addiction treatment, poverty, and other root-cause issues. It is a false choice to suggest that we can have safety, or police reform, but not both. If anything, the longer-term trend of falling crime rates shows us that there is no clear and direct link between levels of policing and levels of safety. The majority of the time, policing is a response to breakdowns in public safety, not a preventative safety measure itself. Going forward, Maryland needs an evidence-based, not fear-based, approach. We continue to have some of the worst rates of racialized incarceration and unjustifiable police violence, and Maryland Democrats cannot give up on reform out of political convenience. At the same time, we need to continue to address root causes to improve public safety. Guaranteeing high quality affordable housing in our state will reduce rates of domestic violence. Allowing local governments to use safe schools funding for mental health support and crisis intervention will reduce violence in our schools. Passing the SAFE Roads Act will protect our kids and seniors from the hundreds of pedestrian casualties and fatalities we see every year on our state highways. Legalizing marijuana will keep young Black Americans out of our dangerous carceral system. And continuing to raise our minimum wage to a real living wage will reduce both property crimes and violent crime.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Many nonprofit organizations provide essential services in our state, from tackling food insecurity to providing emergency housing to mental and physical healthcare. Where nonprofits are meeting critical needs, I favor seeing the state partner with them, and I understand it is a core responsibility of an elected official to be involved with nonprofit service organizations and ensure they are getting the funding and support they need from the state.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Housing is the single largest expense that the majority of residents here face, and in recent years those expenses have truly spiraled out of control. Housing costs are also extremely racially inequitable, with the heaviest burdens falling on renters who are disproportionately people of color. This is why my main role in the Montgomery County Racial Equity Network is to lead our housing policy and advocacy. My view is that we will not begin to seriously impact out-of-control housing costs and burdens on renters and homeowners alike until we recognize that the private market cannot solve the housing crisis on its own. I favor a statewide rent stabilization policy like the one used in Oregon and in consideration in several other states as a way to discourage reckless financial speculation by private equity in our housing market. I also believe we must directly address the serious shortage of deeply affordable housing stock by implementing a social housing program, which would empower local

jurisdictions like Montgomery County to build publicly-owned, mixed-income housing that could offer as many as 30-70% of units in the affordable-to-deeply-affordable range, rather than the current 15% "moderately-priced" units we can currently get from the private sector. Lastly, I favor passage of just-cause eviction protections to guarantee that renters in good standing cannot be forced from their homes purely so that property owners can pursue a higher profit. We have to recognize that housing is more than just an investment, it is a critical social good that must be protected for the sake of the entire community. These measures taken together would guarantee that public sector workers, as well as the many working people we all depend on in the service and healthcare and child-care sectors, could afford to live with dignity in the communities they serve.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

For the past seven years I was the senior organizer and campaigns manager at Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, and one of the issues I worked on most was the threat of white nationalist antisemitism, including as it pertained to houses of worship. Because of my work, both my organization and my family received threats from neo-Nazis. I was the organizer of Bend the Arc's Pittsburgh chapter, and consequently I was the first staff person to respond to the horrific 2018 massacre at the Tree of Life congregation, where multiple leaders in my chapter attended shul. These intense and highly personal experiences of antisemitic violence have led me to think a great deal about this issue. There are several serious challenges. One is simply cost, which can add up quickly when congregations rely primarily on independent security providers. Another challenge is that members of our congregations do not all relate to law enforcement in the same way. A presence that may communicate safety to most white congregants can communicate something very different to congregants of color. A third challenge is the sobering reality that white nationalists have made significant progress in recruiting among the ranks of law enforcement. Organizations like the "Constitutional Sheriffs Association" push an increasingly radical, antisemitic, anti-government agenda. My considered viewpoint is that our communities must rely on law enforcement to deal with acute threats, but that day-to-day security should be handled internally by community leaders to whatever degree is practical. In the case of the hostage situation in Texas, we saw how valuable it can be to train congregational leaders in certain security practices to deescalate dangerous attacks. Maryland should provide funding and resources to this end, and engage in more proactive outreach to other minority religious communities that may not be aware of the opportunities.

#### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

In 2008 and 2009 I spent a year living in Israel, working as a reporter at the Jerusalem Post and a researcher at the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information, a think-tank dedicated to coexistence that was co-directed by Israelis and Palestinians. This period of time, as well as several subsequent trips to the region to organize alongside Israelis and Palestinians in the nonviolent movement for peace and freedom, allowed me to become close to fluent in Hebrew, and deepened my connection to the land and the people. These experiences are the reason why I support BDS, the Palestinian call for nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation. My viewpoint on this issue has led to many difficult conversations among family and friends, but I am proud that I have been able to spend nearly all of my professional life building and strengthening Jewish community, even when there are acute political differences. I spent more than a decade as a part- or full-time Jewish educator in both Conservative and Reform institutions, and received graduate certification in experiential Jewish education from Yeshiva University. My political work has likewise taken place primarily within the Jewish communal context, from co-founding Carolina Jews for Justice to seven years leading Bend the Arc: Jewish Action. I have always prioritized strengthening Jewish community and our commitment to justice, and my support for BDS comes from the same set of values. I have seen firsthand how damaging the occupation is to Palestinian freedom and to Israeli law and justice, and I believe that the strongest nonviolent measures available are needed to end more than 50 years of a disastrous occupation.

#### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

In line with the nonviolent Palestinian call for boycott, I do not believe that Maryland should have any formal economic relationship with the Israeli

government at this time. I apply this standard equally to any country where similar calls for justice are made, and I will be glad to change this view when the occupation is ended.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The Maryland legislature must take action immediately to cancel the disastrous Beltway expansion plan that threatens to destroy even more green space and put even more cars on our roads, at a time when we desperately need to phase out fossil-fuel transit systems. We must also renew the call for building electrification, as well as increasing other building standards to deal with the significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions that come from our buildings. We can also immediately move to update our renewable energy portfolio standard to eliminate environmentally destructive practices like trash and forest incineration. We should increase our just transition funds for coal power plant workers to successfully conclude negotiations to shut down our last coal-fired power plants. And longer term, we must continue to invest significant state budget resources in the development of our renewable energy sector, especially solar and wind. Maryland is blessed with a large amount of coastline that can and should be used to generate enough renewable energy not just for our state but for the entire region.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

While I still lived in North Carolina, I volunteered as an abortion clinic escort, helping people seeking reproductive healthcare safely access that care when they were confronted by hateful, violent mobs. That experience permanently affected my view of the need for Democrats to forcefully and unapologetically stand for the strongest possible measures to protect abortion rights. The Maryland senate missed a major opportunity to truly protect abortion in our state by refusing to take up House of Delegates Speaker Adrienne Jones' bill to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution. It was a shameful decision on the part of a mostly male senate leadership, and an indicator that too many Democrats still see reproductive healthcare as too "controversial" to be worthy of support or protection. I will fight to move this legislation in the senate, which is all the more needed as federal rights continue to deteriorate under a right-wing judiciary. Additionally, we must continue to expand abortion access for people involved in health or carceral systems.

#### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I am opposed to BOOST vouchers, which take public money out of our public education system. At a time when Maryland is finally reckoning with decades of systemic disinvestment in our public schools, disproportionately schools serving majority students of color, we should be moving to end policies that only accelerate that disinvestment.

#### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

Except in the rare instance where a student truly cannot be served by the public school system due to significant learning or physical disabilities, I am opposed to public education funding being diverted to nonpublic schools.

#### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

A universal healthcare program for Marylanders should include coverage for assisted living options, and this comprehensive approach is the best way to serve older residents of our state. Additionally, a fully-funded social housing program will offer local jurisdictions much more flexibility to build specialized, affordable housing for seniors.

### **Jeff Waldstreicher**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Each and every day as your State Senator, I fight for our community's values. I grew up Jewish in this area, attending Har Tzeon in Wheaton and now raising my three children



at Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase. My parents encouraged me to embrace the value of tikkun olam, a value I'm passing down to my own children. That commandment to repair our world and spread justice inspires me in the State Senate as we join together and fight to make real, dramatic change.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

In my term in the State Senate, we've made historic progress when it comes to combating climate change, cracking down on gun violence, and protecting women's rights. But there is still more to do. You have my word that I'll fight to reduce polluting emissions by 80% by 2035, hold gun manufacturers liable for their dangerous products, and secure and expand abortion rights in Maryland.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Increasing public safety and increasing police accountability are not contrary values. In fact, they are inexorably linked. I'm proud to have voted for the Maryland Police Accountability Act, which was shepherded by two historic figures--Sen. Will Smith and Speaker Adrienne Jones. Both are the first African Americans to hold their positions. The Baltimore Sun called the legislation 'a landmark police reform package that supporters hailed as a major step toward transforming policing in the state.' The New York Times also praised the law, remarking that it 'placed Maryland at the forefront' of police accountability. I'm also proud to have voted for legislation that will help crack down on violent crime. This includes serious penalties for repeat gun violence offenders, as well as investments in community violence interrupters. I OPPOSE defunding the police, especially in areas like Wheaton and Silver Spring where crime is rising and the threat of antisemitic violence is real.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I support public investments in--and partnerships with--Maryland nonprofits that are providing vital services for our residents. This includes agencies like JSSA that provide meals to the needy, institutions like the Bender JCC that assist the disabled, and organizations like JFGH that provide housing for the most vulnerable among us.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

We MUST expand affordable housing in Montgomery County and across Maryland. I've fought for incentives at the State level to ensure that those who serve our community--teachers, veterans, firefighters, police, and first responders--can afford to live here. I've also fought for renters. Joining with organizations like JUFJ, my committee has made historic changes to ensure that renters can stay in their homes. This includes hundreds of millions of dollars in direct rental assistance, the right to counsel for renters who are being evicted, and dramatic changes that substantially reduce the number of total evictions in Maryland.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

There is no question that virulent antisemitism is on the rise. The ADL has documented it clearly: <https://www.adl.org/blog/some-2022-left-wing-candidates-espouse-troubling-rhetoric-on-israel> I recently had the privilege to speak at Temple Emanuel in Kensington on Shabbat. That evening, there was a security incident where an individual was escorted out. He had neo-nazi literature in his bag. These are dangerous times, indeed. The best way to address the security concerns of our local synagogues, other houses of worship, and faith-based agencies is to simply provide substantial grant money to cover the cost of both security upgrades as well as ongoing police coverage. In other words, the government has an obligation to help with capital improvements (protective bollards, security systems, etc.) AND operating funds (to compensate police officers who protect the shul). You have my word that I will continue to fight for both.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I OPPOSE the BDS movement. It is antisemitic--full stop.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I support a strong and prosperous economic relationship between Maryland and Israel, which remains the middle east's only democracy. In the General Assembly, I have been proud to champion the Maryland / Israel Development Center, the premier partnership bringing our state together with Israel. Israel is a dynamic, multi-ethnic, multi-racial society with more start-ups and Nobel laureates per capita than any other nation. It's in Maryland's interest to retain close ties. If offered the opportunity to travel to Israel to represent our state, I would do so.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Maryland is acting boldly to combat climate change. I was proud to be a co-sponsor of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which the Washington Post called one of the strongest climate bills in the nation. The legislation holds us accountable to bring down emissions by 80% by 2035 and 100% by 2045. I'm honored to have voted for this historic law. My support of the bill has earned me the endorsement of both the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters. The next step is to implement it with fidelity. I have three children, so this is personal for me. I want to leave this planet for them better than I found it. You have my word that I'll continue to be a champion in combating climate change.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I have fought to preserve and expand the right to choose in Maryland. In our state, Roe is codified. That means the right to an abortion is secure even after the Supreme Court tragically overturns it. Last session, we went even further and expanded access to abortion care. We required insurance to cover abortion care at no cost to patients, expanded the range of medical professionals who can provide abortion care, and invested \$3.5 million in abortion care training. For me, a woman's right to choose is not negotiable and not the government's business. You have my word that I'll continue fighting for reproductive justice in Annapolis.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I oppose the use of public dollars to pay for tuition at private schools.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

In extraordinary circumstances, I support State funding for specific secular needs. During the global pandemic, I supported the ability of nonpublic schools to access trained public health professionals, including school nurses. During the current crisis of antisemitism, I support the use of public funds for security at Jewish schools.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

Many of my constituents are part of the 'sandwich generation'--raising children while caring for their own elderly parents. It's a stressful, expensive job that government has an obligation to ease. I support increasing affordable assisted living options in Maryland for those who rely on Medicaid. Due to an influx of federal dollars, Maryland currently has a substantial budget surplus. We can and should dramatically increase Medicaid reimbursement to keep assisted living options affordable for our residents. This includes in-home care.

**District 19 – Republican**

**Raul R. Ayala**

Did not submit a response.

**Anita Cox**

Did not submit a response.

**District 20 – Democratic**

**Enoch Bevel**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I have been advocating and serving my community since I was nineteen years old and the Student Senate President of Montgomery Community College. As such I am qualified: first, I helped initiated the U-Pass by working with the County Executive, which allows students to use county buses for free and pushes for sustainability. I served (i) on the Takoma Park Landlord and Tenant Commission, (ii) on Public Safety Advisor Board, (iii) as a Chief Election Judge in downtown Silver Spring, (iv) as a Court Appointed Child Advocate, (v) as an intern in the Obama White House, (vi) as an intern for Congressman Danny Davis, (vii) and as the chief of staff for Senator Arthur Ellis. During this time, I also worked throughout the community at the Silver Spring/ Takoma Park Food Coop and Red Rock Canyon Grill.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Housing security, especially for our public servants (ie, school teachers, fire and rescue, police)
2. Every public school should have solar panels in their parking lots. This is the case in California, it should be the case in Maryland
3. Community Colleges should be free.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I believe a major reason that crime is rising because is because we need police reform. As such, there is no real balancing required. We require our police to be social workers in addition to law enforcers. Our police must evolve with the times and they need the resources and training required. Additionally, police misconduct corrode community trust and make police ineffective in their work. Police are the only entity that may take away life (generally speaking), as such, there can be no bad apples. Moral hazard in the police force without accountability will only contribute to the destabilization of the relationship between police and communities--especially communities of color.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Non-profits that help communities should be supported. I volunteered for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocacy). This is a necessary organization that is primarily privately funded. Public support should go to organizations like this that, with proven records, perform a necessary public good.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Public servants should not have to live outside their communities. I am running to fight for the homes of these servants.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

First, I believe that as a start, persons purchasing guns require a background check. Weapons of war and mass destruction have no place in a civil society. Presently, local houses of worship require a police presence to deter and confront violent extremist.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

N/A-

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

N/A-Federal Issue

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Mass transportation is required to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. I have worked on legislation in Charles County to bring light rail to the community. I believe this is a movement in the right direction. We also need more

charging stations for electric powered vehicles.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

My policy regarding reproductive freedom is to protect the right of women to choose.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I am unfamiliar with BOOST particularly, however when we invest in our children, we invest in our future. These programs mean so much to me because public schools and private programs helped me graduate from high school and college. I am a witness and recipient of the investments made to educational programs and facilitated by the state and private educational funds.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

N/A

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

It is important for a senator to support and be responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities, including the older Marylanders. Moreover, with rising inflation, older Marylanders with fixed incomes are suffering even more. As such, it will be one of my policies to build more affordable assisted - living housing for older Marylanders.

**Will Smith**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

District 20 is home to one of Maryland's most engaged and diverse constituencies. Residents of the district demand strong, progressive leadership and responsive constituent service.

As a Silver Spring native, and as your State Senator, I am extremely grateful for the opportunities this community has afforded me. While our quality of life has improved dramatically over the course of my lifetime, we must work to ensure we live up to our well-deserved reputation as Maryland's leader in progressive policies. Challenges in education, transportation, the environment, criminal justice and equal access remain ever-present and require effective leaders to help solve them. As your state senator I have built relationships around the state and practiced the type of principled and collaborative leadership I believe will benefit the residents of District 20. I have delivered for our community and I have been responsive to the needs of our district.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

The work of the Maryland General Assembly's Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee touches the life of every Maryland resident and I believe has the potential to shape their prospects more intimately than any other element of state government. It is a solemn responsibility, and my commitment as chair has been to prioritize legislation aimed at remedying past injustice and which puts us on a path toward securing a more just and equitable future for every Marylander. Three things I would like to accomplish in my next term include: 1. Gun safety legislation - safe storage of firearms "Jaelynn's Law" (<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0676?ys=2022RS>) 2. Continued Juvenile Justice Reform 3. Creating a mechanism for more affordable college and post-secondary education (<https://willsmithformaryland.com/endowments-a-path-toward-tuition-free-college-in-md/>)

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Public safety and police accountability are not divergent concepts and in fact I believe they are co-dependent. In 2021 I led our efforts in the Judicial Proceedings Committee to enact the most comprehensive and consequential police reform efforts in our state's history. And although our work has just begun, I am proud of what we did to change policing in Maryland. Addressing the unacceptable level of crime in Baltimore City and across Maryland is of the utmost importance, especially as incredibly high numbers of homicides and violent crimes continue to occur. This past session I led efforts to advance a

comprehensive public safety package aimed at addressing every stage in the justice system including prevention, intervention, criminal justice, and rehabilitation. In addition to a \$148 million increase in crime prevention and victim services funding in the State budget. That package included: • Scaling up funding for warrant apprehension efforts throughout the State (SB585) • Establishing a Maryland State Police Gun Center to track gun crimes through prosecution (SB861) • Banning unserialized and untraceable ghost guns in Maryland (SB387) • Ensuring judicial and prosecutorial transparency so the public can access trends in sentencing (SB763) • Increasing coordination between the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Baltimore Police Department if a defendant of a violent crime is released before trial (SB586); and • Requiring that all State residential facilities create and implement safety plans (SB3)

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I constantly engage with a variety of not-for-profit organizations, civic associations, and local advocacy groups to discuss policy and help them acquire resources to continue their work. See: <https://willsmithformaryland.com/2022-end-of-session-report/>) Before assuming office I served on a variety boards and commissions in my district.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

We need to create more housing options, to include affordable housing units, in areas close to transit hubs. We should also incentivize building ADU's and multi-family housing to reduce the footprint of affordable housing. As chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, I led the fight, along with Senator Hettleman, to create and fund renter's right to counsel in Maryland in eviction cases. I also worked to raise filing fees to dissuade immediate eviction filings. Housing insecurity and instability have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 crisis and although federal eviction prevention funding has provided a lifeline, we anticipate a drastic rise in eviction filings as that funding is eventually exhausted. This Session, under my leadership the Judicial Proceedings Committee passed a series of bills to ensure an equitable approach to our housing laws for tenants, including: • Protecting tenants from unreasonable or arbitrary deductions by requiring landlords to provide supporting documentation (SB6/HB86). • Requiring judges to pause eviction proceedings when the tenant provides evidence that a request for rental assistance is pending (SB384/HB674). • Pandemic record sealing: Allowing tenants to petition the District Court to shield records related to a failure to pay rent (during the pandemic) for actions that did not result in a judgment for the landlord. • Ensuring any landlord seeking an eviction order has a valid rental license (SB563/HB703). • Providing \$14 million to fund the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund that was created last Session to level the playing field regarding legal representation in eviction proceedings (SB662/HB724). I was also the lead sponsor of the HOME Act - SB 530 - Housing Opportunities Made Equal Act - which ended the practice of housing discrimination based on ones legal source of income. The Home Act seeks to deconcentrate poverty by providing additional opportunities for tenants utilizing public subsidies to live in certain neighborhoods; prohibiting a person from refusing to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of source of income; establishing qualifications and limitations on the prohibition against discrimination in housing based on source of income.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

As Chairman of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, I have prioritized legislation to address the spike in hate crimes. We have given prosecutors and law enforcement more tools to detect, prevent, and punish those who would commit hate crimes. We have also provided houses of worship with resources to secure their facilities. A few of the most recent legislative initiatives I have pushed through committee are outlined below: SB 161—Crimes - Hate Crimes - Use of an Item or a Symbol to Threaten or Intimidate This law prohibits an individual from placing, drawing or writing an item or symbol—including an actual or depicted noose or swastika—on any property, public or private, with the intent to threaten or intimidate any person or group of persons and without the express permission of the property owner. SB 606—Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Basis (2nd Lieutenant Richard

Collins, III's Law) In 2018, Maryland law enforcement agencies reported 375 hate bias incidents; in 2019, there were zero convictions in all of Maryland's Circuit Courts under the current hate crime statute. To wit: 2nd Lieutenant Richard Collins, III was fatally stabbed at University of Maryland, College Park and while his assailant was charged with first degree murder and a hate crime, the latter was dropped because the prosecution couldn't prove that race was the "actual motive" for the stabbing. Passed in 2020, 2nd Lieutenant Richard Collins, III's Law strengthened Maryland's hate crimes statute to include actions motivated either in whole or in substantial part by another person's or group's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, national origin, or experience of homelessness. SB 220/HB 128—Hate Crimes - Sexual Orientation This law makes a crime committed against someone based on their gender identity a hate crime in Maryland. The bill also allows courts to order perpetrators of hate crimes to complete an antibias education program established by the University System of Maryland.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

Oppose

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I support strong economic ties between Maryland and the state of Israel and have been supportive of our sister city state relationship with Negev Administrative District, Israel.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Protecting the environment and embracing a new green economy remains a strong priority of mine. I fully supported Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 which sets ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I was also the lead sponsor of legislation which would have amended the Maryland Constitution to ensure every Marylander had access to a clean and healthy environment. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the future to further enhance Maryland's investment in renewable energy and expand ethical environmental practices.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

Access to abortion care is becoming an increasingly fraught issue as states across the country have increased restrictions and cases are pending before the Supreme Court of the United States that have the potential to overturn or severely limit Roe v. Wade. The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in 1991 to codify the legal right to abortion, a decision that was ratified by Maryland voters with 62% of the vote. This Session, we specifically focused on ensuring access and equity for those seeking care through the Abortion Care Access Act (SB890/HB937). Two-thirds of Maryland counties do not have qualified providers, an issue we address through expanding the pool of potential qualified providers, scaling up training opportunities for those professionals, and ensuring equity through Medicaid coverage. Fundamentally, reproductive healthcare should be treated like any other kind of care in our State. Further, we expanded the Maryland Medical Assistance Program providing maternal health services to all Maryland residents through the Healthy Babies Equity Act (SB778/HB1080).

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I am a staunch supporter of our public school system and I am committed to ensuring they have the resources they need to be the best public school system in the nation.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

General supportive to the extent diversion of such resources does not impact our ability to ensure our public school system is the best in the nation

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

We need to create more housing options, to include affordable housing units, in areas close to transit hubs. We should also incentivize building ADU's and multi-family housing to reduce the footprint of

affordable housing. As chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, I led the fight, along with Senator Hettleman, to create and fund renter's right to counsel in Maryland in eviction cases. I also worked to raise filing fees to dissuade immediate eviction filings. It must also be noted that housing insecurity and instability have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 crisis and although federal eviction prevention funding has provided a lifeline, we anticipate a drastic rise in eviction filings as that funding is eventually exhausted. This Session, under my leadership the Judicial Proceedings Committee passed a series of bills to ensure an equitable approach to our housing laws for tenants, including: • Protecting tenants from unreasonable or arbitrary deductions by requiring landlords to provide supporting documentation (SB6/HB86). • Requiring judges to pause eviction proceedings when the tenant provides evidence that a request for rental assistance is pending (SB384/HB674). • Pandemic record sealing: Allowing tenants to petition the District Court to shield records related to a failure to pay rent (during the pandemic) for actions that did not result in a judgment for the landlord. • Ensuring any landlord seeking an eviction order has a valid rental license (SB563/HB703). • Providing \$14 million to fund the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund that was created last Session to level the playing field regarding legal representation in eviction proceedings (SB662/HB724).

**District 39- Democratic**

**Adam Cunningham**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Simply put, I'm the only one in this race willing to meet the moment we all are currently in with bold action and conviction. I'm an uncorrupted, strong, progressive, young black working class man that knows what

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I would like to help implement single payer healthcare, raise the minimum wage to a living wage tied to inflation or housing costs, and expanding public transit and making it free in the state of Maryland.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

There is a more positive correlation with investing directly in impoverished communities and a reduction of crime than there is for increasing police budgets and reducing crime rates. My plan is to defund the police and use those funds to invest in programs and measures that have been proven to ease the financial burden of families and communities and as a result reduce overall crime.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

3P's are okay in moderation. However, it's much better for local communities to organize direct solutions to their problems, be it food insecurity, crime, etc., and in a manner that is democratic, horizontally structured, and not oppressive or exploitative. Nonprofits are helpful, certainly more so than for-profit organizations, but their reliance on capital still tends to skew things toward that rather than their seemingly altruistic efforts.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

As state senator, I plan to fight for statewide rent control/stabilization measures and the changing of zoning laws to allow increased density in crucial areas. Increased density and allowing rent to remain affordable is a net-positive for all people, especially those who serve the community.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

We must heavily address and eliminate all avenues of white supremacist, white nationalist and far right indoctrination, which is by and large the major catalyst for radical terrorists that are emboldened to commit hate crimes, particularly anti-Semitic hate crimes, in this state and nationwide.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I generally approve of the BDS movement.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I believe the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel should be contingent upon how the Israeli government treats Palestinians.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The state should be pushing for a radical and quick transition away from fossil fuels and towards green energy solutions, such as wind, solar, and even nuclear to a small extent.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I believe that reproductive freedom is a right and should be enshrined into Maryland's constitution as such. I also believe that abortions are healthcare, and should be affordable and safe. There were efforts made to do that in the state legislature in the 2022 session, but it failed in the State Senate. As state senator, I would fight to make that a reality.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I am fully in favor of expanding any and all scholarship programs to ensure that students are able to afford secondary education.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I believe that our efforts are better suited towards bettering the services within our public school system first, but I am not entirely against providing some funding for certain necessary measures within private schools.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

As state senator, I plan to fight for an expansion of elderly care and elder person rights in this state. Elder care and benefits for the elderly must be tied with the median cost of living in this state or with inflation, so that one of our most vulnerable communities will be able to maintain a relatively high quality of life in their later years.

**Nancy King**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Along with working in the private sector, I have spent most of my adult life in public service, from volunteering in the community, member of the school board, to the House of Delegates, to the Maryland Senate.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Continuing my work to address food insecurities especially among children, addressing the cost and availability of quality child care, and working towards more affordable housing in our state.,

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I voted for the Police Accountability Act of 2021, and am happy to meet with the police and any group that is interested in finding solutions to the rise in crime. Being on the Budget and Taxation Committee, I will work to help fund new programs.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I see the value in what the non profits accomplish, and work to make sure they are supported in their efforts.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I have worked to support new housing in my district and other parts of Maryland, and believe people should be able to afford to live near where they work.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

As with my own church, I would expect that security concerns should be a county wide/state wide concern and should be supported as such. There should be absolutely no tolerance for discrimination in Maryland.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I would only support a movement that compels all Middle East countries to equally work towards peace, justice and human rights.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if**

### **any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I will continue to support an economic relationship between Maryland and Israel.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Maryland's natural resources/environment concerns are global concerns. In the 2022 Legislative Session I cosponsored and voted for the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Through this legislation, Maryland leads the nation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by setting a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2031 and establishing 2045 as the states goal for

### **and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Much of affordable housing legislation is enacted at the municipal and county levels through zoning laws. However, this past legislative session was remarkable for tenants' rights laws in the General Assembly. For example, Senate Bills 384 and 563 give tenants the opportunity to utilize available resources before they are evicted and ensure that landlords are compliant with the law if they try to evict someone. Did you know that if people get behind in paying their property taxes that the state can seize their home and sell it at auction? This is an unfair and predatory practice that I am committed to addressing. Last year, we placed many more restrictions on when this action can occur and established a mechanism in state government to help families who are in danger of having their property sold at a tax sale. I was proud to get another \$3.5 million to help families in need and to reduce the instances of tax sales over the next three years.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

I support the Montgomery County Police Department practice of having police guard synagogues at busy times, like at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Further, I also support the State issuing security grants to synagogues and other houses of worship.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am pro-Israel. I have worked with the JCRC previously when there has been legislation regarding the BDS movement. I think Maryland should not do business with entities that support BDS.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Maryland and Israel working together is a win-win. We in Maryland have much to gain in partnership with Israel; while simultaneously every investment in Israel helps to support its long-term safety.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Climate change threatens humanity's existence. If we want this planet to continue to be hospitable to human life, we need to take bold and decisive action. That is why this year the Maryland General Assembly passed the Climate Solutions Now Act and other pro-environment legislation, prompting the League of Conservation Voters to dub this legislative session "one of the most successful and momentous in decades." The Climate Solutions Now Act set a goal for Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 and to reach net-zero emissions by 2045. This landmark legislation will drive the development of a new, all-electric building energy performance standard, require the electrification of the state fleet by 2031 and light-duty vehicles by 2036 and start planning for a smart electric grid equipped to handle our expanded use of clean energy. The Act also provides resources to finance innovative clean energy strategies in concert with private investment and mandates that 40% of these investments go to low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. The bill also expands the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, which is critical for engaging more young people in efforts to counter climate change. We are running out of time to mitigate climate change and its disastrous effects. But the Climate Solutions Now Act and other environment and climate legislation from this past

becoming carbon neutral.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I have and will continue to support the right of reproductive freedom and access to safe abortions.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I understand that some families feel their children are better served in private/religious schools and I support their right to make that decision. I do however have to ensure that our public schools have all the resources necessary to provide the world class education that our

session position us well for making more progress in the years ahead. I hope that you will do me the honor of re-electing me to the House of Delegates so that I can continue championing legislation that improves the lives of Marylanders for generations to come.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

Abortion is health care, and health care is a human right. Unfortunately, state legislatures across the country have been chipping away at a woman's right to choose for decades. The landmark case Roe v. Wade will soon be overturned by the Supreme Court. Fortunately, Maryland's legislature wants to make sure that access to abortion remains a fundamental right in Maryland. Beginning this July, trained nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and physician assistants will be authorized to perform abortion procedures. Further, the General Assembly made Maryland's existing abortion care coverage under Medicaid permanent and required private health insurance plans (with exceptions for those with religious or legal exemption) to cover the cost of an abortion without deductibles. I oppose mandatory waiting periods for abortion care. I oppose laws mandating parental consent or parental notification before a minor can obtain an abortion. I oppose bans on public funding for abortion care for low-income women who rely on the government for their health care.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

Simply: public dollars should be spent on public schools.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

While I believe that public dollars should be spent on public schools, a case can be made in limited circumstances to support health and transportation funds.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

People deserve dignity in their final years and I will support efforts that help people age in place. The state and county must do more to provide appropriate assisted living options for all people.

## **Eric Luedtke**

Did not submit a response.

## **Pamela Queen**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I have resided and raised a family in Montgomery County, Maryland for over 40 years. My lived experiences, family ties, community involvement, managerial skills, and work as an educator, leader, and public servant, give me the compassion, confidence, courage, collegiality, and temperament to continue to serve as a Maryland General Assembly Delegate for the Legislative District 14 team. I know the values, needs, aspirations, and expectations of my constituents. I have gained their trust by championing value-driven policies and delivering on promises. Since my tenure in elected office, I have always listened to all my constituents to understand

children need and deserve.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

Again, my responsibility is to first ensure that these support systems are fully funded and available in our public schools.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

My door is always open to speak with any groups who have policy ideas for addressing and funding assisted living options for Maryland's seniors.

their needs. As promised, I tackle the root causes of social and economic inequities, address barriers to economic security for working families, ensure that all children have supportive resources to excel, and foster community unity where people of different races, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds can live harmoniously. I attribute my legislative wins to working well with my colleagues in Montgomery County and across the state to pass, a balanced policy that benefits many Marylanders. I am a collaborative team player who is accustomed to working with others on complex, critical issues to achieve superior outcomes. My focus is on "getting things done" and not worrying about who gets the credit.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I will continue to address the cost of childcare, expand the availability of affordable housing, improve gun safety and limit access to deadly assault weapons. During the last Maryland General Assembly session, a package of bills was passed to revitalize the childcare industry which was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For the next session, I will continue to champion a Maryland Child Care for Working Families Act in which Maryland's childcare scholarship program is revised to consider the percentage of family income spent on childcare expenses. Many Maryland families spend 20% of their income on childcare. The objective is to limit childcare costs for eligible families to less than 10% of the overall income. For Affordable Housing, Maryland needs to expand its housing inventory for all residents. According to a 2020 Maryland Housing Needs Assessment & 10-year Strategy Plan (NCSG), Maryland will have to make big changes to its housing ecosystem to keep homes affordable. Homeownership provides economic stability and is an important step toward generational wealth creation. I will continue to champion efforts to increase access to homeownership for working families. Thirdly, Maryland needs to lead in using technology to mitigate unintended consequences from lost, stolen, or improperly locked firearms. Proven technology is available for law enforcement to locate lost or stolen firearms before they are obtained by unauthorized persons. Maryland should require all firearms sold in the state to use firearm telematics. Furthermore, Maryland must ban the sale and ownership of an assault weapon for individual use, including banning the purchase of ammunition for an assault weapon to individuals. Assault weapons are designed for use on battlefields. These weapons should not be in the hands of non-military or non-public safety personnel. These provisions will not limit second-amendment rights to own other types of firearms.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I believe that we reach a balance between high crime rates and public safety needs by increasing funds for economic development and more social services in high-crime communities which is not to be misconstrued with properly funding law enforcement departments to perform necessary public safety duties. I advocate for addressing social and economic root causes of crime and creating more community policing initiatives to regain trust between communities and police. Maryland must continue to fund initiatives in high crime areas that address lack of financial resources, lack of educational opportunities, provide sustainable employment, and increase affordable housing. More efforts are needed to expand community policing throughout the state. Programs that bring together police and the communities that they serve. Some promising initiatives include youth athletic leagues, police serving as coaches, mentors, and tutors, collaboration in bands, choral groups, and

## **Candidates For House Of Delegates**

### **D14 - Democratic**

#### **Joshua Dowling**

Did not submit a response.

#### **Anne Kaiser**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Experience matters. If we choose dentists or lawyers for their experience, we should do the same for elected representatives. I put my experience and principles into action everyday: I believe in compromise and being

steady and measured when dealing with some of the most complex and politically charged issues. My work may not make headlines every day. However, I understand how to pull the levers of government, get things done and put our values into action.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

If re-elected, my priorities are to be a voice in Annapolis for District 14 residents, provide exceptional constituent service and continue the legislative work that I have started: ensuring that we have excellent public schools regardless of zip code, fair tax rules and privacy and security at the ballot box. Additionally, I have committed to reintroducing the Trans Health Equity Act, a bill that succeeded in our State Senate, but failed to gain enough support in the House of Delegates to beat back a promised veto by the Governor. This Act would extend coverage of gender-affirming care to transgender Marylanders on Medicaid. This legislation is critical for transgender individuals who suffer from discrimination, bias and violence.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

There are a variety of factors contributing to the national rise in crime. Easy access to guns often makes crime lethal. I support common sense gun laws to stem the rise in violent crime. I was proud to vote to ban "ghost guns", unregulated and untraceable firearms sold over the Internet to people without proper background checks. I support mandating universal background checks, instituting red flags laws, raising the legal age to purchase guns, banning high capacity magazines and bump stocks, requiring mandatory waiting periods, ending legal immunity for gun manufacturers and requiring secure gun storage. My voting record reflects strong support for gun safety and gun control measures. I have been honored this year by Moms Demand Action as a Gun Sense candidate. Regarding policing, I was pleased to vote in favor of significant police reform legislation in 2021 that increases public accountability and involvement in the policing of our communities.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

The public and nonprofit sectors have proven to be successful partners in delivering services to individuals and communities in need. I support the continuation of this partnership in order to maximize impact.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development**

other recreational activities. When appropriate for law enforcement positions, I support “live where you work” initiatives for public safety personnel with tax credits and incentives to increase participation in “live where you work” programs. Also, I support programs that help to recruit and retain more individuals in law enforcement that reflect the backgrounds, cultures, and demographics of the individuals that they serve.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Non-profits provide many social services that are beneficial to communities and often fill gaps in services that governments can't efficiently provide. Nonprofits provide services such as healthcare, legal aid, job training, employment assistance, food assistance, services for the homeless, child welfare services, and services for seniors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, non-profits were essential in providing direct support to communities. Because many non-profits rely on funding from government sources, I support efforts to provide government funding to non-profits that provide needed social services to communities.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I support efforts to expand affordable housing for working families, especially efforts providing a pathway to homeownership. Maryland can expand on the Housing and Urban Developments Good Neighbor Next Door program which helps to revitalize communities with housing subsidies to law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and K-12 teachers. I will continue to support and increase awareness of Maryland's first-time homeowner program that provides down payment and closing assistance to medical personnel, teachers, community heroes, and other community partners.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

A greater presence of police or guards is needed during hours of worship at synagogues and other faith-based facilities similar to the law enforcement presence in financial facilities. Also, a joint federal and state task force is needed to monitor hate speech on social media, to investigate potential plots against places of worship, and monitor individuals and groups known to target places of worship.

#### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am not aware of any federal or state elected officials calling for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel. Like my colleagues, I share in the desire for Israelis and Palestinians to find ways to live together with peace, freedom, security, and dignity.

#### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

For years, Maryland and Israel have fostered bilateral trade and collaboration via a Maryland-Israel Development Center which has successfully helped several international businesses open in Maryland. This partnership has been beneficial to Maryland's commerce.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

As a scientist and as an elected official, I believe that climate change is an existential threat and it needs to be addressed at every level of government (local, state, federal, and international). Without action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, all other environmental goals will be much more difficult. This year, my colleagues and I passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, which went into effect without the Governor's signature. The legislation will put Maryland on a path toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2045 through better energy efficiency standards for large buildings, investing in renewable energy, and transitioning the State's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. I was proud to cast my vote for this important legislation that makes Maryland a national leader in our efforts to tackle climate change. Our next steps should be removing trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard and requiring new commercial and apartment buildings to be all electric.

#### **What are your policies regarding**

#### **reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am staunchly pro-choice and voted this session to enshrine the right to an abortion in Maryland's constitution. Although that constitutional amendment didn't pass the Senate, we did pass another bill to train additional abortion providers and prohibit insurers from charging co-pays or coinsurance when a woman exercises her right to choose.

#### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I believe that public education dollars should be spent on public schools and have voted to reduce BOOST funding.

#### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I'm not certain if Maryland is currently providing financial support for any of these support services to non-public schools. I'd like to know more about what the current supports are, if any.

#### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

This is outside my scope of expertise, but will support efforts in the legislature to provide solutions.

### **Tom Smith**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I'm the best candidate for this position because holding public office is all about serving others – and I've dedicated my life to service. After serving as a combat medic in the Air Force, I've fought forest fires here in the U.S., helped respond to an earthquake in Ecuador, and worked at a Syrian refugee camp in Greece. Most recently, I was working as a Policy Director on Capitol Hill, so I know how to pass legislation and work with others to get things done. I'll go into the House of Delegates ready to take on the challenges our communities face, bring folks together to solve problems, and lift up everyone in my district, no matter where they come from. I'm also the only candidate who has not and will not take a dime of corporate PAC money.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

My three priorities in office are: investing in our children, investing in our communities, and making sure that folks feel like they have a voice in our government. Right now, I know that parts of UpCounty and East County feel like they are left behind and that their government doesn't work for them. If elected, I'll be a constant presence in these areas, holding events in every town and meeting the constituents that I'm representing. This goes hand in hand with making more investments in our communities – I want to do things that actually make a difference in peoples' lives. And I think that a few ways to accomplish that is investing in our kids by: universal pre-k, increasing the number of social-workers, counselors and therapists at MCPS, and helping reduce class size.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Time and time again, politicians want to respond to crime by simply adding more police officers. I think our biggest mistake is not looking at this problem holistically – by investing in communities and showing people that they can be successful in life without resorting to crime. I want to pour resources into mental health at schools: therapists, counselors, and social workers. We have over 200 schools in MCPS and yet only about 20 social workers. That's not enough to help kids go through the most important developmental years of their lives. I also want to ensure that first responders are getting paid a living wage, in order for them to be able to work and live in the communities that they serve.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

As a former humanitarian aid worker who worked in refugee camps, I know the power that nonprofits can bring to lift up those in need. They are crucial

in tackling some of our country's most pressing challenges, and they do work that should supplement government-led initiatives to improve peoples' lives. I've also worked on Capitol Hill, and so I've seen how beneficial it can be for an elected official to act as a convener – bringing together government, nonprofits, businesses, and faith communities to create change in our neighborhoods. I'll be this community leader and convener for District 14 in Annapolis.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

My affordable housing policy is simple: we need more of it. The fact that a growing portion of our public servants cannot afford to live in Montgomery County is a real shame. I fully believe that in order to adequately serve a community, you have to be a part of that community. We need to make sure that we invest more into affordable housing that is a part of strong, thriving communities – so that residents can thrive as well. We should also continue to foster and support programs like Montgomery County's Housing Opportunities Commission public-private developer model, which is on course to produce 900 new units per year, 1/3rd for low income residents.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

I've served as a combat medic in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I've seen first-hand what assault weapons can do to people. Security concerns would be much different if the most a domestic terrorist could do is wield a knife instead of an AR-15. So the first step would be to end the sales of these firearms and strengthen our red flag laws. I think the other part of this is bringing about a level of respect for faith that may be lacking sometimes, as a result of xenophobia or discrimination. I'll work to bring everyone together so that houses of worship can tackle the issue of security together, instead of going it alone.

#### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

This is a very personal issue for me as someone that has served in a Syrian refugee camp, has dear friends from the region, as well as being the spouse of and family members that are Jewish. First, I am not a supporter of BDS. I think the best path to peace involves multilateral diplomacy toward a two state solution, while consistently following international law & upholding human rights. I support the rights of Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace with democracy and security.

#### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I've been fortunate to have served, lived and worked over 5 years of my adult life overseas. I know the importance of building strong personal and professional relationships and how, in the long-run, both sides benefit. Our state government needs to foster cooperation, dialogue, and travel between Maryland and Israeli business owners.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

There are a number of things the state should be doing to address climate change, and chief among them is making it easier for Marylanders to use renewable energy. My family went through an extremely complicated and lengthy process in order to make our home solar-powered. No family should be punished by complications for wanting to use renewable energy. We also need to get money out of politics so that corporate polluters have no impact on what laws we write to combat climate change. I'm the only candidate who refuses to take a dime from corporate PACs, and I'll fight for the expansion of publicly-financed campaigns to the state level.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

The first thing that our state government should do is enshrine the right to an abortion in Maryland's Constitution, so that no matter the political winds of the future, this fundamental right is protected. Regarding Roe v. Wade – I was taught in the military to hope for the best and plan for the worst. We're fortunate that Maryland is on the correct side of this issue, and if other states decide to strip away reproductive rights, our clinics need to be ready to handle the potential influx. I'll make sure that our clinics and healthcare providers have what they

need to provide top-notch care to all women seeking reproductive healthcare.

#### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

As a foster parent of two wonderful kids in public school, I know we must prioritize uplifting our most economically kids and their families. The best way we can do that is continuing to improve our public schools through better teacher wages, smaller class sizes, and more social workers, therapists and counselors.

#### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I'm a firm believer in 'A rising tide lifts all boats,' as such, we must provide the needed resources to all of our Maryland students.

#### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

In April 2021, my mother had a massive stroke at our home in Burtonsville. Thanks to the wonderful first responders, hospital staff, and the amazing therapists- my mom has made a remarkable recovery. Thus, I'm a strong supporter of Medicaid programs that make it possible for our older Marylanders to live independently in their homes. As an example, we must expand the eligibility and further bolster the Community Options Medicaid Waiver that provides nurses to help with activities of daily living as well as other help with assisted living.

## **D15 - DEMOCRATIC**

### **Saqib Ali**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I've previously held this office for 4 years, so I am already experienced enough to serve this district. I also believe that everyone in Montgomery County deserves a seat at the table in policymaking. For a county as

diverse as ours, there's not one Muslim elected official in our delegation of public servants, and we should change that. I've advocated for government that is transparent and welcoming to everyone it serves, and I know I can do it again for another 4 years.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Aggressively fight climate change and expedite the transition to renewable fuels. This should include a transition plan away from the Dickerson incineration plant as soon as possible. -Create a sanctuary state for our state for women in need of abortion services due to the fate of Roe v. Wade being in limbo. -Fully legalize cannabis use for adults and use the tax revenues generated to support disenfranchised communities that were affected by the war on drugs.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Where there's crime, there's usually poverty. Our nation's policy response to COVID economic recovery was abysmal, and as a result, people fell through the cracks and still lost their jobs, homes, and life savings. What's particularly troubling is not just the uptick in crime, but the uptick in crime committed by juveniles. There's plenty we can do to prevent a cycle of poverty and criminalization for these children. We need to focus on rehabilitation and trauma care for children who commit these acts instead of locking them up. Providing additional monies for after school programs for kids to participate in instead of misbehaving on the streets will help reduce gang-related offenses. We can tackle crime without necessarily resorting to bloated police budgets and over-incarceration. Maryland has higher incarceration rates than the UK, Portugal, Canada, France, and Belgium COMBINED. It's unconscionable that we've let this continue, and I plan to support policies to break this cycle of injustice.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Overall, I support this. It's a much better alternative than working with for-profit organizations.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development**

**and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Nationwide, we're seeing the failures of exclusionary zoning laws and how they create income inequality. We're one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, yet we aren't doing enough to accommodate all income ranges. While most of the zoning policies are decided at the local level, I'll do my best to push our county to fill in the gaps on housing to include "missing middle" housing plans, like adding more condos, townhouses, and multiplexes in development plans. This will accommodate many more income ranges. We also need to focus on future development that is mass-transit centered and not car-centered to prevent urban sprawl and to reduce our carbon footprint. The state can assist the county with funding for mass transit by expanding MARC/Wmata and Bus Rapid Transit programs.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Maintain police protection to protect from vandals and active shooters.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

Boycotts, divestments, and sanctions are tactics that have been widely used throughout history in various situations and places. For example boycotts were used in Montgomery, Alabama to fight against segregation. Divestment is being used against Russia due to its aggression against Ukraine. Sanctions are being applied to Syria because of Bashar Assad's murderous regime. There are situations when these tactics are valid and there are situations when these tactics are invalid. The validity of these tactics depends on the context and the justness of the underlying cause for which they are being employed.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

n/a

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I plan to champion a Green New Deal for Maryland, which will deploy all policy tools necessary to expedite our economy to 100% carbon neutrality in the next 15-20 years. We can achieve this with incentive policies (tax credits, carbon taxes and pollution fines, etc.), public sector unionized jobs tasked with building climate resilient infrastructure, and more. On a more local level, the County Executive promised to voters that the Dickerson incineration plant would be closed by the end of his first term. Sadly, that hasn't happened, to no one's particular fault. It is a challenge to find alternatives to waste management while in the midst of a pandemic and economic disruption. I plan to get our county back on track with finding a pathway to closing such a toxic way of trash disposal to preserve the Agricultural Reserve and the Potomac River.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I plan to support the reintroduction of a constitutional referendum to codify bodily autonomy rights into our State Constitution, a ban on extrajudicial anti-choice states criminalizing women residing in Maryland for seeking abortions, and support the reintroduction of the Pregnant Persons' Freedom Act.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I strongly oppose any effort to privatize public education

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I support this.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

N/A. Maryland State Delegates are not executive branch officers, so I will not be a part of any administration.

## Linda Foley



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I bring many decades of problem-solving experience, decision-making and communication skills to the General Assembly. I began my career as a journalist trained to examine all aspects of an issue and then communicate

its ramifications clearly and factually. Later, my work as a union leader when I was national president of 34,000-member News Guild-CWA required me to listen to union members and represent their concerns in negotiations with industry management. Similarly, as a legislator, I must listen to constituents and then address their concerns through legislation, which requires negotiation and compromise. I was appointed to the Maryland General Assembly at the end of 2021 to serve out the term of Delegate Kathleen Dumais, who became a judge. In my first session, I not only quickly became an active and engaged member of the Environment & Transportation committee, I also sponsored three bills of my own that were passed by the General Assembly, a rather extraordinary achievement for a first-time delegate. Part of the reason for my success was the experience I gained as a union negotiator, organizer and problem-solver. I more recently served as chair of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. As party chair, I employed political and organizing skills that brought record voter turnout in the 2020 Election, even as the COVID pandemic raged. I have lived in my district for more than 35 years and have a keen understanding of the community and its residents' issues. I work extremely closely with the rest of the District 15 legislative team, Senator Brian Feldman and Delegates David Fraser-Hidalgo and Lily Qi. I am passionate about social justice issues and have been a champion for workers and for young women.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Ensure that Maryland women continue to have access to safe and legal abortion and reproductive health services, no matter the fate of Roe v. Wade. 2. Work to achieve net-zero fossil fuel emissions in our state by 2045, as the Climate Solutions Now law requires, and make sure we step up our efforts to fight climate change and promote clean energy. 3. Bring collective bargaining rights to all public workers in Maryland and to rebuild the middle class in our state by promoting good jobs, requiring payment of a living wage and providing support for working families

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Police should be a force for good in our communities. We need more police personnel and less militarized equipment and weaponry in our neighborhoods. Regular patrols by so-called "beat cops" will deter crime and build community relationships. Our law enforcement officers need to be trained to de-escalate potentially violent situations. Mental health counselors should become a regular fixture of community policing programs. At the same time, we need to reduce the number of interactions with law enforcement, particularly in communities of color. Many Marylanders don't trust that our criminal justice system will treat them fairly. Holding police officers accountable for bad or illegal behavior is critical for building trust. I strongly support the use of body cameras and will encourage transparency by police departments around the state. Finally, we must pass more common-sense gun safety laws that will reduce the untenable amount of gun violence in our state.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I support providing resources and partnering with nonprofit organizations that promote the public good. For example, I was the lead sponsor of a bond initiative for the Ivymount School (to improve security). The privately funded school works with MCPS to teach children with special needs.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

While affordable housing falls mostly under the purview of the county government, there are some policies that can be enacted by the State General Assembly. I personally believe affordable housing is achieved through a combination of zoning

law changes, developer incentives and housing subsidies. We can enhance the ability of government workers, teachers and first responders to live in the communities they serve by paying them a salary that will allow them to meet the costs of living, especially housing, in our community.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Synagogues and other houses of worship should be safe spaces. Unfortunately, with the rise of hate crimes and antisemitism they often are not. We must make sure police officers and other resources are visibly deployed and vigilant at synagogues whenever congregants gather to worship or celebrate. Video surveillance and regular police patrols should be deployed during non-service hours. Even lesser crimes, such as spreading antisemitic graffiti or vandalism, should be investigated and prosecuted. Hate crime statutes need to be strengthened and vigorously enforced.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am opposed to the BDS movement and I support Israel.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I support Maryland's program to promote investment and business in Israel. Israel is one of the strongest allies of the United States. It is in Maryland's interest to help keep that relationship strong. I support Maryland's program to promote investment and business in Israel. Israel is one of the strongest allies of the United States. It is in Maryland's interest to help keep that relationship strong.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The Maryland General Assembly in 2022 passed a comprehensive climate law, Climate Solutions Now, that set ambitious goals of a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2045. The bill included provisions to electrify public vehicles and incentivize the purchase of personal electric cars. It also set building standards that would result in fossil fuel reductions. But we need to do more. We should be devoting more resources to public transit. We also need to create more incentives to produce and use clean energy such as solar energy. We can help counties approve and fund community solar projects. And we need to require utility companies to upgrade the electric grid so it can handle additional demands. I also want Maryland to close down its two remaining trash incineration plants.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I believe it's critically important to fight to preserve access to affordable and safe abortion care and reproductive services. Even if Roe v. Wade is overturned, abortion will continue to be legal and safe in Maryland. If, however, overturning Roe leads to a federal abortion ban, the right to choose in Maryland could be threatened. I believe we need an amendment in the Maryland Constitution that states unequivocally that women have the right to control what happens to their own bodies.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

While I do not oppose continuing the existing BOOST program, I am not in favor of expanding it.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I think limited state support for nursing, transportation, security and some other secular projects in non-public schools can be beneficial to all of the community.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

I am not in the administration. However, older Marylanders who qualify for Medicaid assistance should be able to use it to help pay for any assisted living arrangements that make sense for them and their situation.

## David Fraser-Hidalgo



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

As a Delegate since 2013, I feel I have a long track record of experience that makes me uniquely qualified to represent District 15 in the House of Delegates. I serve as the Chair of the Motor Vehicle and

Transportation Subcommittee and the Chair of the Latino Caucus where I have had the privilege of passing some of the most consequential legislation coming through the General Assembly. I have been named Legislator of the Year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and in 2017 was the lead sponsor on legislation to ban fracking in Maryland. Throughout my career in Annapolis I have worked to pass smart legislation to make the lives of District 15 residents better and vow to continue working towards that goal.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. I would like to continue supporting green energy and electric vehicle usage across our state, with a focus on legislation making these technologies more accessible for families. 2. Increasing our small business community and growing our tax base. 3. Protecting access to abortion care and a women's right to choose

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

As a former Montgomery County police officer, I understand the need for public safety and am also in support of police reform. I believe these two can coexist and through citizen oversight boards, expanded social services, and increased use of body cameras.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I am in favor of public support or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland. District 15 has a strong history of charitable organizations serving the region and I believe we should continue to support them anyway we can from Annapolis. Housing prices have become untenable for those who serve our community and are forcing long commutes. Partnerships with local law enforcement agencies are a strong first step towards addressing the reprehensible rise in antisemitic crime.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Housing prices have become untenable for those who serve our community and are forcing long commutes. While we have done some work to help increase teacher salaries, now more than ever (skyrocketing inflation) we must do much more to ensure all our public servants can live in the communities in which they reside. More tax credits, more incentives and yes increased salaries.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Partnerships with local law enforcement agencies are a strong first step towards addressing the reprehensible rise in antisemitic crime. During our 2022 session I supported efforts to allow victims of hate crimes to take civil action against those who committed the act. While this bill ultimately did not pass, I will continue to support increased hate crime legislation and believe we should explore tax credits for security organizations that service synagogues and faith-based agencies.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am categorically opposed to the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement. Israel is a strong ally on the world stage and I have a strong record of supporting then Senator Ben Kramer's efforts on anti-BDS legislation.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Maryland and Israel should continue building an economic relationship and as someone who has focused his legislative career on green energy solutions, I have been closely following the cutting edge solar technologies coming out of Israel and would love to explore options for collaboration

created the Maryland Isreal Economic Development Center and I have always supported full funding.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Maryland The state should be doing everything possible to address climate change and I have devoted my legislative career to addressing this crisis while pivoting to make us a green energy leader. From banning fracking, to sponsoring an electric school bus pilot program, to the recent Climate Solutions Now act which calls for net-zero emissions by 2045, I have been on the front line of reducing greenhouse gasses. As technologies rapidly advance I will continue to legislate with the goal of addressing this pressing emergency.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

As we await a Supreme Court decision that will likely strike down Roe for states to decide, Maryland has already started expanding and protecting the right to affordable and safe abortions. In 2022 I was proud to support expanded abortion access in the General Assembly and believe that in the next session we must codify abortion access into our state constitution.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

There are funds for textbooks and other funding for private schools in the general state budget. I have supported budget allocations for Jewish schools, including 600k for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington and another 600k Berman Hebrew Academy.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I have supported busing, transportation, nursing and other technology programs for non public schools and Jewish schools in the state wide budget.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

The General Assembly should work with the Maryland Department of Health to expand community assisted living programs and these programs should receive dedicated bond funding to ultimately keep costs down for seniors who are relying on Medicaid.

## **Lily Qi**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I believe my cultural background, professional experiences in local government and economic development and community engagement, and my record as a first-term legislator made me uniquely qualified for this

position. First, I have been an effective state legislator who has left my mark on important policy issues from economic competitiveness to consumer protection to advancing marginalized communities. My legislation has led to funding and designation of a Maryland-sponsored green bank to fund clean energy projects, programs to support bio and tech companies, the Governor's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs as well as the "Make it in Maryland" workgroup on manufacturing. In 2020, the Maryland Tech Council named me "Legislator of the Year" and the National Capital Region's Center for Nonprofit Advancement selected me as recipient of "Phillis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award" from Montgomery County. In addition, my team and I have been able to deliver on several pedestrian safety projects including new streetlights and new crosswalks for District 15 residents and helped many families with unemployment insurance benefits and other issues. Finally, as an immigrant who lived through two political systems, I bring unique perspectives to policy issues including how to make our election system more friendly to immigrant voters. My election in 2018 not only energized many first-time voters, but it inspired others to step up and serve as evidenced by more Asian Americans running for office this year including those who helped me win last time. I believe we're among the missing voices Maryland and Montgomery County can benefit greatly from.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

For my second term, I plan to build on my past work and focus on several areas. First, I expect to play a significant role in advancing some key pieces of legislation that we've started including the Time to Care Act that our Economic Matters Committee helped advance this year, which still needs a lot of work to make it practical and effective. The pandemic has made it abundantly clear the critical need for people-centric and family-friendly policies to sustain our workforce. We've laid a foundation and I look forward to working with my colleagues on that. Another issue I expect to get very involved in is the cannabis workgroup that I've been assigned to once the voters choose to approve the referendum in November. Second, with the global supply chain crisis, I want to push for legislation to support Maryland manufacturing by helping our companies adopt new technologies to stay competitive, leverage federal assistance for domestic productions and grow high-paying jobs while expanding our export capacity. The statewide workgroup that I chair will produce a comprehensive report by year end, just in time to help lay out some policy framework. Third, I plan to reintroduce several of my bills that didn't make all the way including legislation to remove bureaucratic burdens such as fees for small businesses, reduce road salt during the snow season that harms our waterways and infrastructure, and strengthen our career and technical education resources for high school students to be more career ready whether they go to college right away or later.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Balance is the right word. While I strongly support police accountability such as the comprehensive police reform legislation we passed last year with greater civilian oversight in police misconduct, limit the use of force, requirement for body cameras for all officers, we must also continue to fund measures to enable them to do their jobs well. We not only need resources to properly recruit, train, and retain top-notch police officers from diverse backgrounds, but we also need to provide support for their mental health as their work environment is often highly stressful, dangerous and even traumatic as well as increasing social workers to work in conjunction with police officers. We're asking a lot of our police officers who have to play many roles depending on the circumstances, as I saw firsthand over a decade ago during a police ride-along with a female officer. While there is no silver bullet to fighting crimes, there are proven ways to building trust and improving community trust and community policing. And besides focusing on policing, we must also confront this American epidemic of gun violence at the national level for crime reduction among other measures.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I grew up in China at a time when there was no nonprofit or private sector and I saw the downside of having only the government dominating every aspect of our lives. That's why I deeply respect every sector's role in our civil society and in their ability to sustain communities, create opportunities and unleash individuals' talent and creativity. I'm a steadfast supporter of public support for and partnership with nonprofit organizations, what I like to call the independent sector, to do what the government cannot do as effectively and what the private sector would not do on their own. I have personally served on numerous nonprofits including the Suburban Hospital, Montgomery Hospice, VisArts, and Imagination Stage, etc. The CBOs—the community-based nonprofits, play a unique and critical role in our community in advancing worthy causes from fighting climate change to helping the homeless and promoting the arts. Our dollars are well worth the investments.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Housing is an integral part of community and economic development as it has multiplying effect. While this is more of a local county issue as it relates to zoning and development, I believe as a community we need to be honest with ourselves when it comes to such discussions. We cannot be pro-affordable housing on the one hand while anti-growth on the other. One way to make housing more affordable is to expand the housing supply, which, contrary to common misperception, Montgomery County is still under-performing in delivering the approved units for various reasons from development approval to

community pushback to investment interests. At the same time, we need to constantly evaluate our existing housing policy to make sure it still meets the market demand and consumer appetite. New policies such as allowing duplexes that the state explored and local policies such as allowing accessory units in single family housing are all helpful but it's always a moving target for communities that people want to move to. While the county has a long-standing and expanding policy on MPDU and has been a national and regional model in preserving and protecting affordable housing, we need to explore creative ways to expand the MPDU policies to provide direct assistance to the teachers and firefighters whose jobs are tied to certain locations and must work near where they live. At the same time, agencies like the Housing Opportunities Commission needs to explore ways to expand lower-income housing beyond the federal programs and MPDU which is for middle-income families.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Yes I am well aware of the rise of hate crimes, including antisemitic and anti-Asian acts of bigotry and violence in recent years. Fortunately, we live in Maryland and Montgomery County, especially, where there is a large Jewish community and where local leaders for many years have been unequivocal in our support for the Jewish community's and other religious minorities' safety concerns. I will continue to support enhanced state and county funding to protect the houses of worship and appreciate the communities' continued advocacy.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I do not support BDS. As a community leader with a career in local government, I have been an intentional cultural bridge builder through such measures as establishing Montgomery County's first annual Ramadan Iftar observance and the Diwali festival to honor the diverse cultural heritage of today's Montgomery County. As a state legislator, I will continue to focus on what unites us as a local community.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I know Maryland has a long-standing economic partnership with Israel partly facilitated by the Maryland Israel Economic Development Center. As a former economic development official both in Washington, DC and Montgomery County, I am a believer in global partnerships with different countries and regions where they are mutually beneficial in advancing our economic and cultural interests. Though I do not have deep knowledge of Maryland's economic ties with Israel, I believe such partnerships have been mutually beneficial endeavors as Maryland continues to expand its partnerships with other countries.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

There is so much to be done. Maryland passed the Climate Solutions Now Act this year that puts Maryland on an ambitious path to reduce greenhouse gas emission and transition Maryland to carbon neutrality by 2045, five years ahead of the federal schedule. Key aspects of the legislation includes adopting the most updated green building design standards and building energy performance standards, transitioning to zero-emission school buses, electrifying the state vehicle fleet, and addressing environmental justice for communities disproportionately affected by climate change. This is an existential crisis of our time and requires all sectors' and all levels of government to pull our weight and make the necessary adjustments. In addition to those measures above, Maryland should position ourselves for the fast-growing green economy by diversifying our economic development portfolio and investing in clean energy innovation and technologies. My sponsored legislation HB419 of 2022 on advanced clean energy, which ultimately prevailed despite the governor's veto, does exactly that so we can be a net exporter of clean technologies to help other states and countries fight climate change while growing jobs and industries. Locally, the community choice energy legislation we passed out of the Montgomery County delegation last year was another example of our efforts to put Montgomery County on a more aggressive path to transition to cleaner energy sources.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

As a mother, I strongly support women's rights to

make our own decisions without letting anyone or any laws dictate such deeply personal and often difficult matters as reproduction. This is the 21st century America, we can't afford to go backwards on such policies which have tremendous ripple effect on families, the workforce and economy, and the wellbeing of women and girls. I'm proud to have co-sponsored the Abortion Care Access Act this year to expand safe abortion care, which would be critical especially for the women and girls who don't have the means to travel far to seek such care.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I understand the BOOST voucher program's intent is to allow low-income Maryland students the opportunity and means to attend a private institution when the public schools are not able to meet their educational needs. As a first-term legislator, I am keeping an open mind to learn about the merit and impact of this relatively new program that started in 2016. We need more data to evaluate its effectiveness in achieving its stated goals. I recognize that I live in a wealthier part of Maryland where we can count on the quality of local schools, but I know the school qualities vary widely in Maryland. This is why the legislature has kept the funding for the BOOST program this year.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

In general, I believe state dollars should go to support public education, but in the cases of school security, especially, the state should help the schools just as our district 15 team has been bringing capital bond funding to the school several years in a row to beef up its security to meet state requirements.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

This sounds like a question for either county executive or governor than for state delegates. But hypothetically, we should explore partnership with the private sector builders and investors to meet the market demand and update zoning codes to allow more such senior living units to be build where the land is more affordable.

## **D17 – Democratic**

## **Kumar Barve**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

The Baltimore Sun once described me as a "staunch but pragmatic liberal". This is a phrase I wear as a badge of honor. As the Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Committee, I am one of the premier environmental

leaders in Maryland. Under my leadership the state banned fracking and functionally banned off-shore oil drilling. This year I led the successful effort to enact the landmark "Climate Solutions Now Act" – a law that has been hailed by the National League of Conservation Voters as "the most significant action on climate in the country in 2022." (<https://bit.ly/StrongestClimateLawInUSA>) Additionally, my committee is at the cutting edge of efforts to protect and clean the Chesapeake Bay and reduce air pollution.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

As the Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Committee my top three objectives for the next term in office will be: 1) to continue the fight against climate change; 2) to begin the process of increasing state support for transit, especially rail transit; and 3) to move the state more decisively in the direction of more affordable and accessible housing for low and moderate income Marylanders.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

The best way to prevent crime is to build a society in which each person has a great education and a great job with an economic future. I support police reform, a well-trained police force and comprehensive gun-control laws. However, we need to substantially improve our efforts to foster healthy, prosperous and safe communities through enhanced private sector

job creation and living wages.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I have always supported cooperation and partnership between government and non-profit organizations. Non-profit organizations are extremely important players in the effort to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders, and they are often more effective than government agencies alone.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

First, we should understand that the real problem is local community opposition to the most affordable forms of multi-housing development. As an elected official, I have never played to the crowd on the issue of public or private housing construction. While this is primarily a local issue, there are several actions the state government can take. I support state-wide policies that mandate favorable local consideration of “accessory dwelling units” (ADUs). I oppose legislative attempts to weaken local affordable housing agencies. I oppose policies that would discourage housing investment, and I support the use of surplus government land for housing (similar to the bill introduced by Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr and passed by my committee). The bottom line is that Maryland has an estimated housing unit deficit of 80,000 to 100,000 state-wide. All housing policies must focus on dramatically reducing that deficit or they are meaningless.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Religion-based acts of violence and property destruction strike at the very heart of the First Amendment of the US Constitution and are morally unacceptable. Montgomery County has a good reputation for combating this through anti-hate crime laws and exemplary behavior by local elected officials. I think we have to continue to broaden these highly successful policies and behaviors.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I totally oppose the BDS “movement” against Israel in all of its forms. I have and will continue to vote for legislative actions to oppose discrimination against the state of Israel.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I strongly support economic, military and diplomatic ties between Maryland, the United States and the state of Israel. One area of cooperation that has not been fully explored is in the area of environmental protection and carbon reduction. As the Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Committee, I look forward to broadening those efforts in the future.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The greatest existential threat to Maryland, the nation and the world is global climate change. As the Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Committee, I led the effort to pass the “Climate Solutions Now Act.” This law has been hailed by the National League of Conservation Voters as “the most significant action on climate...in the country”. (<https://bit.ly/StrongestClimateLawInUSA>). I look forward to furthering those efforts in the near future.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I began my political career as a board member of the Maryland Affiliate of the National Abortion Rights Action League and have maintained a 100% pro-choice voting record. I fully support Medicaid and private insurance coverage for abortion care and contraception. I am very disappointed that the Maryland Senate chose to not pass Speaker Adrienne Jones’ proposal to amend the Maryland Constitution to include abortion rights. It is my hope that after the election the Maryland Senate will pass this crucial amendment.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I oppose the use of taxpayer money to subsidize

private school tuition. Therefore, I completely oppose the BOOST program.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I support alliances between public and private schools that pool their resources to gain mutual benefits. For example, I support joint purchasing of text books, software, supplies and even school buses. I would also support coordinated spending on energy saving technologies.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

As with housing, this is a problem (at the state level) of supply and demand. Of course, the state should continue its policies of taking advantage of every federal health policy, such as the expansion of Medicare. We should also consider partially subsidizing the wages of people who work in assisted living and nursing facilities.

## **Joe De Maria**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Experience matters. Professionally, I have run government programs, protected Americans, reunited thousands of American families with their loved ones overseas, resettled refugees, promoted democracy and human rights and managed budgets. I have interpreted, implemented and drafted laws, so I understand how laws impact peoples’ lives. I have recruited, trained, mentored, supervised and evaluated entry-level professionals, about 85 percent of whom had advanced degrees. I have also drafted legislation and engaged in legislative oversight of the executive. Making the laws under which we live is not an entry-level position. Personally, my life experience mirrors that of most constituents. My wife and I both worked our way through school and have second jobs even now. We have helped aging parents financially and commuted long distances to work. We chose to buy a house in central Montgomery County because of the schools, diverse community, safety and green spaces. All Marylanders should live in such an environment.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. In Maryland, public employees need legislation for each workplace to organize a union. This is a right of all private sector employees under the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. As a union member, I believe it is high time everyone working in Maryland has same right to organize and bargain collectively regardless of their employer, private or public. I will introduce legislation guaranteeing that right for all public employees. 2. Schools should be made safe to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne disease. Further, educators and students should have the training and equipment to switch to online learning quickly, if necessary. 3. I support public financing and spending limits in General Assembly elections. The need to raise funds to campaign for public office distracts from discussion of the issues and is debasing to candidates.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

As President Biden said, we need to re-fund the police, not de-fund the police. We need to provide police with the resources and training they need to serve and protect our communities. Police recruitment should seek candidates who demonstrate more interest in community service and less in enforcement. Police training should include less emphasis on the use of force and more emphasis on professionalism, human rights, communication, crisis resolution and cultural sensitivity. Continuing professional development needs to be part of every law enforcement officer’s career. Better compensation and higher educational requirements when recruiting would result in better, more equitable policing by hiring more stable and better qualified officers. The best way to protect the profession is to roundly denounce and punish any occurrence of abuse, brutality or extrajudicial killing. Lastly, law enforcement is dangerous profession and police have the obligation to protect themselves as well as the public. We should follow the lead of police on gun control. Police are the experts in harm’s way. So, when cops say there is a type of weapon or

ammunition available that has them outgunned, I’ll support efforts to ban it. When cops say their jobs are more dangerous because where guns are allowed, I’m going to work to ban guns from those places. When cops say there are persons with guns that make it less likely they will return home unscathed at the end of a shift, I’ll work to make sure those individuals can’t have guns. No child should see a parent go to work not knowing whether they’ll come back. The most important professions are police and teachers because without police, we have no present and without teachers, we have no future.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Non-profit organizations are critical partners for the state government to reach the people. These organizations have the local, grass-roots connections that allow them to aggregate interests, articulate needs and get resources to where they are most needed in communities. As a refugee coordinator and labor officer in the Foreign Service, I worked closely with non-governmental, non-profit organizations around the world and understand that government could not be effective without them.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

People should be able to live close to their workplace if for no other reason than to reduce commuting times to reduce vehicle emissions and traffic congestion. It is in the public interest that our communities have a mixture of income levels. Nowhere is the social cost of geographic income disparity more evident than in education. Unlike other industrial democracies, Americans have historically chosen to have local school boards rather than a national education system. Therefore, so long as there are income disparities between communities, there will be disparities in educational outcomes. This might have been acceptable in a rural, agrarian economy in which people lived and worked near where they were raised and educated, but it is not in the public interest in a mobile, post-industrial society. Therefore, it is in the public interest to require some portion of housing development to be moderately priced or affordable (35 percent of average local income) throughout the state, as in parts of Montgomery County.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Religious-based violence is abhorrent. Freedom of religion means feeling safe to practice one’s religion not only from government interference but also from the actions of fellow citizens. Local police departments position patrol cars outside synagogues and mosques during times of worship. If local police lack the resources, Maryland State Police should fulfill that function. Hate crime laws and enhanced penalties for crimes of violence committed against worshippers and places of worship might serve as a deterrent. I say “might,” because people disposed to commit such crimes are so far outside the range of normal behavior that they may be inured to common self-preservation. I would have State and local entities partner with our faith communities to ensure that they have direct support and a continual dialogue. I would also convene engagements amongst the faith community to ensure that both I and my team are hearing directly from them about their needs, not just in meeting immediate physical security demands, but also in looking over the horizon to plan for potential challenges.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

Sanctions are a tool of negotiation meant to induce a change in behavior of another country, not punishment. But one negotiates with friends differently than one negotiates with enemies. We can see the effect the strategy is having on Russia now in response to its invasion of Ukraine and how it brought Iran to the bargaining table to negotiate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) regarding nuclear weapons development. As a strong advocate for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, I oppose the use of Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against the State of Israel. I believe that it is crucial to not isolate Israel, because that would undermine our country’s ability to support diplomacy. Isolation works when dealing with pariah states like Russia today, or South Africa in the 1980s. Israel is neither of those countries and is a strong, democratic ally of the United States. We must find positive ways to support peacemaking, not punitive measures. I can be a voice in advocating this position, both through

my personal and professional experience. I have promoted human rights and democracy abroad as a Foreign Service Officer. And as a student, I was part of the movement to get universities to divest from companies doing business in South Africa to bring pressure on the Apartheid Regime there. Israel is not South Africa, and I can use my real world experience to explain that.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Both Maryland and Israel have vibrant, high-tech economies which can complement each other in many industries. Israel has a well-educated, industrious, stable and creative workforce. Israel is a good trading partner for Maryland because it has a sound, fair and independent judicial system to enforce contracts and resolve disputes. Further, its laws are transparent and worker rights are respected. Economic development authorities from the Maryland State Government would do well to actively seek and promote trade and investment opportunities with Israel, including trade delegations to Israel. As a former Foreign Service Officer, I was on the delegations to negotiate four Free Trade Agreements (FTA), two of them in the Near East (UAE and Oman), and have visited Jordan, Egypt and Bahrain to represent the United States on trade issues. Because of the Abraham Accords, now is the right time for Maryland to help both Israel and its new Arab allies advance the economic goals of that significant accord. Maryland has a tremendous technology sector that would benefit from participating in trade efforts aimed towards Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco, in addition to Egypt and Jordan, and I have the experience to lead on this effort. My expertise in this area would be unrivaled in the State House and I would be honored to work with the Maryland Jewish community to advance the promise of both peace and economic development that the Abraham Accords provide.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I applaud and fully support the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 which puts Maryland in the forefront of environmental policy in the nation. The most necessary change now is to change perception. De Maria’s First Iron Law of Politics says: Whoever defines the terms of the debate, wins the debate. We need to re-brand environmental protection as a public health issue, which is what it is. It affects people’s livelihoods and lives. With 3,000 miles of tidal coastline, climate change is a threat to all Marylanders. Along with changing perception and raising consciousness, using state spending and buying power to create demand for environmentally sound products, lake mandating electric vehicles in state fleets, is the most effective way to produce change rather than mandating change in behavior. The same could be done with state buildings, owned or leased. Like the saying from the movie, Field of Dreams, “Build it and they will come,” I say, “Buy it and they will produce it.” Rather than mandating what businesses and individuals should do, creating a stable demand for environmentally sound products would increase production and lower prices for those products. This is an example of inducing change in behavior and letting the markets work their economic magic.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

The decision to carry a pregnancy to term should be made by the pregnant woman, not dictated by law. That decision is among the most difficult most women will ever make and women facing unplanned pregnancy deserve our support and compassion regardless of the decision they make. Certainly, people should not be harassed when receiving medical services and professionals should not be harassed when providing them and if legislation is necessary to protect them, I would favor it. Abortion is a medical procedure like any other and should be held to the same medical standards as procedures of similar complexity and risk, no more, no less. Likewise, “morning after pills” should be regulated and dispensed the same as medications with similar risk, no differently. These should be covered by Medicaid, the same as similar procedures and medications. I would defer to the medical community on what procedures and medications are like abortion and “morning after pills.” The way to prevent unplanned pregnancies is through science-based sex education and low-cost, widely available contraception. Anyone who is against those cannot say they are against abortion.

### **What are your views about continuing or**

### **expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I favor discontinuing the BOOST Scholarship. It has been found that most beneficiaries of the BOOST Program were enrolled in private schools before the program. Further, it is a thinly veiled effort to get taxpayer funds into religious schools in violation of the separation of church and state. The funds would be better spent on Gifted and Talented Programs in the public-school systems. Scarce education resources should be used to enhance educational opportunities for all students, not to benefit the talented few at the expense of everyone else.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I, my wife and my son each have been educated at both public and private schools. There is a public health interest in delivering health services through schools, private or public, where there is a risk of contagion. Private schools should be held to the same performance standards as public schools, if they can exceed those standards, good for them! Their competitive advantage is being able to provide better instruction. But I would not support use of state funds for public schools beyond public health efforts. Private education is an alternative, not an entitlement.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

As people live longer and the Baby Boom Generation reaches old age, we need to expand eldercare services. I paid \$7,500 per month out of pocket for assisted living for my mother, who was over 90 years old and suffered from dementia, while she was on waiting lists for various nursing homes. We were able to borrow against our home to pay that, but not all families have that financial resource. Any family in Maryland that has not had to deal with eldercare issues will face them in the next ten years and there is no road map. The system of eldercare is not set up for so many people living into their 90s or for families in which retirement-age children must care for their aging parents, two generations retired at the same time. Part of the problem stems from the lack of qualified staff for the services need. Many eldercare workers are immigrants, so discouraging immigration at the federal level under the previous administration exasperated the problem. But, as mentioned above, better compensation and training for eldercare workers is necessary to attract and retain more and better qualified workers to that field. Not only have they been historically undercompensated, but they play vital roles in society and in each of our families by caring for our most vulnerable, our aging parents and grandparents.

## **Julie Palakovich Carr**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I'm currently serving my first term in the House of Delegates. In the past four years, 21 bills I sponsored passed the General Assembly, which makes me the 8th most productive Delegate this term. I serve in leadership roles in the Transit Caucus, Latino Caucus, and Montgomery County Delegation. Previously, I served for five years on the Rockville City Council. Professionally, I'm a scientist by training, worked for a decade in science policy, and am the only biologist with a graduate degree in the legislature. I've been a successful Delegate and am eager to continue the work on behalf of the residents of District 17.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I got into politics because I believe that government should work for the people and most help the people who need the most help. My top issues as a legislator are fixing our tax code through progressive policy changes, addressing economic insecurity, and election reforms. Our state tax code is upside down: the richest 1% pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than other Marylanders. Wealthy corporations are adept at using tax loopholes to minimize or even eliminate their tax liability. Changes are needed to our state tax code to make it fairer and to ensure that we have enough resources as a state. I have sponsored numerous bills to this end and will continue to fight for a more progressive and fair tax code. Economic insecurity was a problem in Maryland before the pandemic and is even worse now. I've sponsored bills—now laws—to create the

Maryland Child Tax Credit, to increase the supply of affordable housing, and to make streets safer for people who walk or bike. I was the floor leader for the legislation to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to include immigrants and sponsored the law to make it easier for residents to claim that tax credit. I will continue to work on affordable housing and making it simpler for Marylanders to participate in safety net programs. Pro-democracy election reforms are necessary to ensure that all citizens have a full and equal opportunity to participate in elections. I sponsored the law to rename 'absentee ballots' to 'mail-in ballots' to make it clear to voters that anyone can vote through the mail. I plan to reintroduce my prior bills to provide employees paid time off to vote and to reform our state's campaign finance laws, as well as pursue vote-by-mail.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

We all deserve to be safe and feel safe. Research shows that stronger gun control laws and investments in education, housing, and economic opportunities are proven crime deterrents. That's why I support efforts to create more affordable housing, universal pre-K, invest in our public schools, and create jobs that pay a living wage. Police should be able to focus on the job they were trained to do: addressing crime. To help them do that, we also need comprehensive mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and violence prevention programs. I also want to note that Maryland has led the way in police reform to limit use of force, restrict the use of no-knock warrants, require use of body-worn cameras, and reform the officer discipline process. I was proud to vote for these needed reforms that will help to build trust between police and communities.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Non-profits are great partners in helping Marylanders. I support the State providing grants, loans, capital funding, and other supports to non-profits who serve our residents.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Maryland currently lacks 85,000 affordable housing units—a number that could double over the next decade. Every community in Maryland needs more affordable housing and at a variety of price points. The deficit of housing for low- and middle-income Marylanders means that too many residents pay a high percentage of their income towards housing, live with relatives, are homeless, or commute long distances to work. This past session, I sponsored a bill—now law—to reuse surplus state-owned properties for affordable housing. Any excess real estate owned by the State will be evaluated for suitability as affordable housing. Non-profits and other developers will then have the opportunity to have the property donated or sold to them to develop as affordable housing. This legislation also became the vehicle for an additional \$30 million in funding for affordable housing from the State. There isn't a single solution to the affordable housing crisis in Maryland, but this is a concrete step to help address the lack of appropriate building sites and limited financial resources for affordable housing. I'm pursuing some new bill ideas for future sessions, including requiring state agencies to co-locate with affordable housing when building a new state facility. I'm also exploring how the State can ensure accountability of local governments to approve their fair share of affordable housing, as some jurisdictions in other parts of Maryland are not carrying their weight.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

The legislature took action in recent years to strengthen state hate crime laws. We passed legislation to require police to receive training to recognize and respond to a hate crime. It's now a crime to display hate symbols, such as a noose or swastika, on another person's property. Additionally, we expanded the definition of hate crime to include acts that were motivated in whole or in part because of bias. I'm ready to work with JCRC and other stakeholders to further strengthen our state laws so that Marylanders are not subjected to heinous crimes and intimidation.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement? I don't support the BDS movement.**

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

The state legislature generally doesn't have a role in terms of international relations, but I'm supportive of the State having economic relationships with Israel and other democratic countries.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

As a scientist and as an elected official, I believe that climate change is an existential threat and it needs to be addressed at every level of government (local, state, federal, and international). Without action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, all other environmental goals will be much more difficult. This year, my colleagues and I passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, which went into effect without the Governor's signature. The legislation will put Maryland on a path toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2045 through better energy efficiency standards for large buildings, investing in renewable energy, and transitioning the State's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. I was proud to cast my vote for this important legislation that makes Maryland a national leader in our efforts to tackle climate change. Our next steps should be removing trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard and requiring new commercial and apartment buildings to be all electric.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am staunchly pro-choice and voted this session to enshrine the right to an abortion in Maryland's constitution. Although that constitutional amendment didn't pass the Senate, we did pass another bill to train additional abortion providers and prohibit insurers from charging co-pays or coinsurance when a woman exercises her right to choose.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I believe that public education dollars should be spent on public schools and have voted to reduce BOOST funding.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I'm not certain if Maryland is currently providing financial support for any of these support services to non-public schools. I'd like to know more about what the current supports are, if any.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

This is outside my scope of expertise, but will support efforts in the legislature to provide solutions.

## **Joe Vogel**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

When I was three-years-old, my family immigrated to the United States from Uruguay and we moved into a home in the same district I'm now running to represent. I am a graduate of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, an alumni of BBYO, and was an avid member of both the Hillel and Chabad on my college campus. I have worked to elect Democrats, advocated for progressive political causes in Annapolis, and served on the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. I have fought for gun violence prevention, LGBTQ rights, and reproductive rights; organized in support of increased education funding for Maryland students; helped launch an organization to hold social media companies accountable; and founded a nonprofit to provide free tutoring for children of essential workers. As Delegate, I will take on gun violence; revitalize our local economy and help our small-businesses thrive; fight to get our fair share of education funding from Annapolis; make Maryland a leader in climate action and environmental protection; work toward universal access to childcare, and make sure Gaithersburg and Rockville families can afford to continue living here. My great-grandparents escaped the Nazis in Europe. My grandparents and parents grew up under a military dictatorship in Uruguay. I understand what is at stake in the fight for democracy — and I will work tirelessly

to restore faith in democratic governance. I'm proud to have support from leaders like former Governor Martin O'Malley, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman, Gaithersburg Councilmember Neil Harris, Gaithersburg Councilmember Lisa Henderson, Gaithersburg Councilmember Ryan Spiegel; and organizations like the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), the Sierra Club, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, SEIU Local 500, LIUNA Baltimore/Washington District Council, CASA In Action, LGBTQ Victory Fund, and Run for Something. I hope you'll join us.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Ending the Gun Violence Epidemic: We need to fight for bold policy solutions to Maryland's gun violence crisis, and I'm proud to be recognized as a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate. We must extend liability to gun manufacturers and require liability insurance for gun owners. We must pass safe storage legislation and advocate for local school districts to increase public awareness on how to safely store weapons at home. We must invest in school social workers, mental health support systems, and restorative justice practices to resolve conflicts and crises before violence occurs. We can increase funding for violence intervention programs by raising fees on firearms and ammunition. Defend Reproductive Rights: I have always believed that people, not the government, have the right to make decisions about their reproductive health. We must enshrine abortion access in the Maryland Constitution. We must protect access to abortion care, continue making it easier to access reproductive healthcare, and expand access to over-the-counter emergency contraception for students living on college campuses. We must designate healthcare centers in Maryland as sanctuary spaces for undocumented individuals, and ensure that detention facilities offer contraception, emergency contraception, and abortion care for incarcerated Marylanders. Climate/Environmental Action: We need to take bold action to address the climate crisis. I believe Maryland should lead the way in setting and meeting ambitious decarbonization targets. We need to invest in infrastructure for electrified public transportation. We need to significantly expand production and deployment of solar and wind power. If we make the right investments, our state can become an important player in climate innovation. Additionally, we need to make critical investments in climate resiliency — making sure every community is prepared to address the consequences of a changing climate.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

The spike in crime in our community is concerning and needs to be addressed. From carjackings to gun violence, our community has had a very difficult year. While we need to address the immediate situation, it is also important we are focused on preemptively addressing crime moving forward. I support increasing access to mental health support services, expanding crisis intervention response teams, investing in violence intervention strategies, and improving formerly-incarcerated reentry programs. Improving our education system, expanding job opportunities, and ensuring everyone has access to housing will have significant effects on reducing crime in our community. The gun violence epidemic is at the core of our crime problem, and needs to be fully addressed. I am very supportive of community-based violence intervention programs that have been proven to reduce deaths by gun violence.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

When it comes to creating positive change in our community, the work goes far beyond the halls of government. Having worked with groups like Interfaith Works and starting my own non-profit, this is a fact I am keenly aware of, and one that informs how I will serve as delegate. If elected, I will work hand in hand with community non-profits both to gain a better understanding of problems as well as engineer collaborative and comprehensive solutions. Any organization committed to doing good in our community should have a seat at the table, and I will endeavor to facilitate that cooperative environment in Annapolis.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Housing is a human right. For too many in our district, the cost of housing is increasingly difficult



to afford. With a post-pandemic eviction crisis on the horizon and housing prices continuing to rise, I will support efforts to expand access to safe and affordable housing, protect tenants, and advance re-housing programs to guarantee every Marylander keeps a roof over their heads. The core of the issue is the insufficient stock of housing: Maryland has a shortage of 137,602 affordable rental-housing units for families earning less than 50% of area median income (AMI), and a shortage of 118,810 units for families earning less than 30% of AMI. This is an issue that can only be fully addressed with partnership at the local level. However, I am committed to working alongside Montgomery County, Gaithersburg, and Rockville leadership to explore solutions that increase housing availability – especially in close proximity to public transport, grocery stores, retail, and jobs. The legislature should take action to lower the overall cost of living. Through tax credits for working class families, child care subsidies, more affordable public transportation options, and other key economically progressive policies, I will work to make sure every family in our community is lifted up.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Everyone in our community has the right to learn, work, and live without the fear of being attacked or discriminated against for who they are. The rise of antisemitic, anti-Black, anti-AAPI, Islamophobic, and homophobic hate crimes have no place in our community. I will work tirelessly to address the rise in hate crimes in Maryland, create solutions to chronic underreporting, and implement evidence-based anti-bias programs. Two concrete steps I will take will be to one, support the implementation of HB 128 which requires the development of an anti-bias training program which judges can use as part of a sentence for hate crime offenders, and two, ensure funding is available to cover the security costs of organizations at risk of being subject to hate motivated attacks; including religious institutions, schools, and community centers.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am strongly opposed to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, and will fight to ensure it does not gain ground in the state of Maryland. We should continue to advocate for the rights and dignity of Palestinians, and work towards peace between Israel and Palestine. The BDS movement has sought to delegitimize Israel, while leaders of the movement advance anti-semitic ideologies. It is unacceptable. I will continue to be a resolute voice for Israel.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Maryland should continue strengthening its economic relationship with Israel. Our economic ties span the life sciences, advanced technologies, and cybersecurity sectors. This is especially critical for Gaithersburg and Rockville, as we are home to a thriving biotech corridor that sees significant partnership with Israel. Our export relationship with Israel exceeds \$145 million, and countless Israeli businesses are based or operate in Maryland. I look forward to being a strong voice in support of continued economic cooperation.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I believe Maryland can and must be the first state in the country to reach net-zero emissions. We need to lead the way on electrification, deployment of renewable energy infrastructure, and climate adaptation. We have a shrinking window to act, and need to take significant steps in the next few years. I believe we do not have time to waste. The Climate Solutions Now Act and the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act were important first steps. If we make the necessary investments in the next few years, I believe we can exceed the goals set by those plans. However, the pace we have been moving at is disappointing. Expanding solar power utilization is the key first step to improving our energy portfolio. We need to be smart about leveraging rooftops, brownfields, and unproductive urban space for solar panels and clean energy production. I will support measures to alter the regulatory structure around solar installations to make these options more affordable. Wind is the second key component. The Maryland Wind Energy Area located in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Atlantic Ocean, has the potential to produce 850-1450 megawatts of commercial wind generation. As delegate I will fight to ensure this potential is realized as part of the plan for 100% renewable energy, all the while creating new construction projects that offer good paying jobs to Marylanders. Other priorities

need to include grid modernization, expansion of the climate conservation corps, significantly expanding access to electrified public transportation, significantly increasing the number of charging stations, and providing funding support for resiliency projects in low-income communities. Read my full plan to combat the climate crisis at [joevogel.org/climate](http://joevogel.org/climate).

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I have always believed that people, not the government, have the right to make decisions about their reproductive health and will continue to fight to protect reproductive rights for all. As delegate, I will work to enshrine abortion rights in the Maryland Constitution and expand access to care. Abortion is health care. While the Supreme Court may vote to strike down Roe v. Wade, I will support legislation to enshrine abortion access in the Maryland Constitution. Abortion access must become the law of the land, and I will fight to ensure that access to reproductive healthcare is codified into the Maryland Constitution. Additionally, history has shown that abortion bans disproportionately harm poor people and people of color. I will support legislative efforts to protect expanded access to abortion care, and continue making it easier – not harder – to access reproductive healthcare. Additionally, I will support efforts to expand access to over-the-counter emergency contraception for students living on college campuses. I will work to lower barriers for medical professionals to provide care. HB 937 took historic steps towards making it easier for people to access reproductive health care. I will vote to defend the progress Annapolis has made on this front and support the full allocation of the \$3.5 million allocated for training. I will defend undocumented abortion seekers and fight for access to contraception for incarcerated Marylanders. I will fight to designate healthcare centers in Maryland as sanctuary spaces for undocumented individuals, and advocate for detention facilities to offer contraception, EC, and abortion care for incarcerated Marylanders. Read my full plan to defend reproductive rights at [joevogel.org/reproductiverights](http://joevogel.org/reproductiverights).

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I oppose expanding the BOOST voucher program. I believe we should invest in our public schools. Maryland—Montgomery County in particular—once boasted the best public schools in the nation, and I believe that with adequate and intentional investments, we can once again offer the best public schools in the nation.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I am a graduate of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and understand the important role religious private schools play in our community. With that being said, our priority must be fully funding our public schools. Maryland—Montgomery County in particular—once boasted the best public schools in the nation, and I believe that with adequate and intentional investments, we can once again offer the best public schools in the nation.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

Making sure our seniors have affordable assisted living options to retire in is of the utmost importance. To address this issue I will support legislation expanding state support for healthcare options including assisted living, and exploring options to adapt our tax structure to provide relief to the seniors in our state.

**D19- Democratic**

**Charlotte Crutchfield**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

My experience, leadership and voting record within the House of Delegates has prepared me for another term.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

As an incumbent, I want to complete the job that

D19 voters sent me to Annapolis to perform, which includes but is not limited to continuing to support increased school funding, assisting families and small businesses affected by the pandemic, protecting a woman's choice, continuing to reform the criminal and juvenile justice system, supporting seniors and retirees, and working towards a clean Chesapeake Bay and livable planet.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Please review my voting record, where I have supported police reform and accountability legislation, which provides for public safety.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Public support helps to assist non-profits, which benefits all Marylanders.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Special homeownership and rent incentives should be provided to those who serve the community.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Continue to support legislation to address hate crimes including legislation that I sponsored (HB290: Hate Crimes-Civil Remedy) that would have authorized victims of hate crimes to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the act.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I do not support boycott divestment and sanctions against Israel.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Maryland should continue to build upon its economic relationship with Israel.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Continue to support and pass legislation such as the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, Electric School Bus Pilot Program and the Clean Cars Act of 2022.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I was honored to cast my vote in favor of HB937: Abortion Care Access Act, which improves abortion access throughout the state by expanding the types of clinicians authorized to provide abortion care and funding training opportunities for medical professionals. (Enacted into law).

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

It is my understanding that this program continues to receive funding each year.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

All children should have access to tools in schools that will provide the best learning environment for success.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

I will continue to support legislation that will provide benefits and incentives for our most vulnerable.

**Bonnie Cullison**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am very grateful to the voters of D19 for the opportunity to represent them in the House of Delegates for the last 12 years. In that time I have learned a

great deal about how to listen to and consider all perspectives on an issue in order to create good policy. I have successfully passed about 40 bills which have increased access to health care, improved our public information act and expanded school-based health centers. I have been recognized by leadership as an effective legislator and currently serve as the Deputy Speaker Pro Tem and chair of the Insurance and Pharmaceuticals subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I am seeking another term to continue this service to the my neighbors, constituents and all Marylanders.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I will continue to work with my colleagues and advocates to find innovative ways to increase access to affordable health care, especially mental health services. As a career public school educator, I am committed to supporting the implementation of the Blueprint for Excellence in Education with fidelity. I am also committed to continuing my work on School Based Health Centers to become part of the community health safety net.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Public safety is a priority for me and I will continue to strive for stronger responsible gun ownership laws. I also advocate for law enforcement that is fair, equitable and just in its administration. Crime prevention efforts should be a primary responsibility of the police with focus on building communities, law enforcement should be secondary. I am strongly committed to police accountability in ways that acknowledges the challenges of their work, and provides them with the support they need to be embedded in our communities.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

I believe our communities thrive when there are partnerships among all aspects of our communities. Public entities and non profit organizations share the common goal of a good quality of life for our residents and when we collaborate on specific ways to achieve that, better options and opportunities are generated. It is important to listen to each other in order to truly understand what is needed. Therefore I strongly support these partnerships.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

The relationship between affordable housing and economic development is intrinsic, one relying on the other. Therefore as a government we need to focus on ways to provide the inventory of units needed; some of which may include repurposing existing buildings. Improving inventory is the first step; a second is considering ways to incentivize reasonable rent setting, so that landlords have the resources needed to maintain the properties, and renters can afford them.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

I am truly distressed by the increase in antisemitic incidents. One way to address this issue is to incorporate law enforcement into the infrastructure of faith-based entities. Unfortunately that is a necessary, but superficial response at this moment in time. A more cogent response would be a partnership between government and these entities to raise consciousness about the impact of hate crimes, including, but not limited to stronger penalties. There could be 'red flag laws' which ask communities to identify those who are at risk for committing hate crimes and policies that would provide mental health services to them as a preventative measure.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I am strongly opposed to the BDS movement and have consistently supported legislation and budget language which prohibits entities that engage in them from receiving public funds.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

I do not have specific proposals for this relationship, but it would be wise for Maryland to appreciate the business acumen of Israel and partner in areas that are important to both.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The passage of the Climate Solutions Now bill, over the governor's veto, puts Maryland on a path to mitigating our negative climate impact. However, the test will be in the fidelity of implementation and we need to be vigilant in assuring that there is follow through on mandates of the bill. In addition, we need continuing education on why this is important so we can build even stronger support for the actions we need to take.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

As chair of the Insurance and Pharmaceuticals subcommittee I worked closely with the sponsor of the Abortion Care Access Act to assure that insurance companies would meet the cost requirements in the bill so that these services would be more affordable. I believe that all health matters are personal to the individual and that when to have a child is a health matter; it should not be forced on anyone. This can be a matter of life or death in some cases and government should support reproductive health choices.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I would continue the BOOST program at its current levels. I respect that families may choose to send their children to a nonpublic school, but as a former public school teacher, I think that public education is fundamental to all students having equitable opportunities in life and therefore should have the resources it needs to be successful for all students.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

In the past, I had begun to look into ways to use existing resources to provide some of these secular programs to nonpublic schools. We were able to run a busing pilot for a year, which was ended when the public school hours were shifted. Now that there has been time for the public schools to adjust to the new schedule, I think we should come back together to examine new options on how to provide it. I am also interested in looking into ways to better utilize federal funding for special education services in nonpublic schools.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

In 2022 I passed legislation that requires the Department of Health to request an increase of community-based waivers from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid so that those who need services can get them in their homes and not in long term care facilities. In addition, the Department must double its efforts in addressing the waiting list of over 20,000 people for these slots. This legislation should move us forward, but we still have work to do to provide these in home services for those who cannot afford them independently.

## **Augustin Esquivar Saah**

Did not submit a response.

## **Vaughn Stewart**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

For the last four years, it's been an honor to represent District 19 in the House of Delegates. I've personally led the fight on issues like housing affordability, climate justice, pedestrian safety, ethics

reform, and immigrants' rights. I'm fortunate to work alongside my District 19 teammates Senator Ben Kramer, Delegate Cullison, and Delegate Crutchfield. We hope to earn your support to keep fighting for a Maryland that treats every resident with dignity and respect.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

First, I will work alongside my colleagues to continue investing in education and transportation. Our schools--both public and private--should be the envy of the nation, and our transportation network--especially public transit--needs more funding so

that we can fight the gridlock that grips the region. Robust education and transit systems will also attract the economic development that Montgomery County needs. Second, we should ensure that every Marylander earns a decent living, and can afford food, shelter, and health care. The General Assembly has made strides in these areas, but we have more work to do to make Maryland a place where everyone can thrive. Third, we should continue our work to make Maryland a welcoming place for immigrants. I was the primary sponsor of the Dignity Not Detention Act, which bans for-profit immigrant jails. No one should profit from human misery and family separation. But we should also ensure that every immigrant has access to an attorney so they can exercise their legal rights under the Constitution.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

We should all reject the false choice between safe communities and a criminal justice system that treats all Marylanders fairly. I'm proud of the work the General Assembly has done to reform the justice system and hold police accountable. At the same time, we should invest in proven crime-prevention approaches, pass more common-sense gun laws, and mercilessly attack the root causes of crime. Maryland has been a leader on the issue of gun control, but still trails a handful of states with stronger laws and less gun violence. Especially in the wake of the massacre in Texas, we should do more to ensure that everyone can feel safe while they work, shop, learn, and worship.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

The state should continue to support and partner with nonprofit organizations, which are the lifeblood of our community. In particular, my District 19 teammates and I have been thrilled to champion Yad Yehuda's efforts to provide both food and a financial safety net to vulnerable members of the Jewish community.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I believe that housing is a human right. But the reality is that we have a lot more work to do to guarantee that right. For the last four years, I've led the charge on this issue in the House of Delegates. Our region's lack of affordable housing is an enormous drain on economic development--companies don't want to locate to or remain in a place that's too costly for their workers to live in. And it's a travesty that the folks who educate our kids and keep us safe can scarcely afford to live in the neighborhoods they serve. The most effective solution to the problem is investment. Our state's Housing Trust Fund has spent merely \$50 million total since 1992, while other states spend more than that in a single year. Maryland still enjoys a robust fiscal surplus, and we should use it to build thousands of affordable homes across the state.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

We must do more to combat hate and bigotry in our community. I was pleased to work alongside JCRC and ADL to pass the Education Against Hate Act, my bill to offer anti-bias training courses to hate crime offenders--a proven approach to reduce recidivism. Many synagogues in District 19 are spending significant resources on security to defend themselves against this wave of hate, and I support state funding to assist them.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I don't support the BDS movement, and I don't think the State of Maryland should support it either. People have the right to boycott, but state governments have the right to oppose misguided boycotts.

### **What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Maryland and Israel are close partners in innovation, especially advancements in the life sciences that save lives. I support the work of the Maryland/Israel Development Center to continue building on this economic collaboration.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse**

### **gas emissions and climate change?**

Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states to the effects of climate change, and we should be a national leader in combating it. We should move to a carbon-free economy as quickly as possible while creating thousands of good-paying jobs in the clean energy sector. We must also clean up our Renewable Portfolio Standard--through our electric bills, Maryland ratepayers are currently subsidizing dirty energy sources like trash incineration. Finally, we should divest our pension fund from risky fossil fuel investments and invest in both public transit and electric vehicles.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I strongly support reproductive freedom and the rights that were protected under Roe v. Wade. The General Assembly should solidify Maryland's status as a safe haven for poor people fleeing reactionary abortion restrictions in conservative states.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I have supported legislative efforts to phase out BOOST while continuing tuition assistance for those already benefitting from the program.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I have supported state funding for secular programs and services in nonpublic schools. These investments have tangible public benefits for all Marylanders: We all want widespread health, communities free from violence, and less congested roads.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

We should do more to ensure that all Maryland seniors can retire in dignity. I have spearheaded legislation to support seniors burdened with ever-increasing premiums for long-term care insurance. And I support expanding funding for Maryland's existing Senior Assisted Living program, which currently caps out at \$1,000 per month.

## **D20 - Democratic**

## **Lorig Charkoudian**

Did not submit a response.

## **David Moon**

Did not submit a response.

## **John Walsh**

### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am like you: I am not a professional politician. I am semi-retired: my income comes from Social Security and Ubering. My wife and I live with my daughter, her husband and their children, our grandchildren, in a multi-generational environment in a diverse neighborhood. All of these decisions are intentional. On a weekly basis I meet people from all walks of life to both learn and share with the intent of transforming a personal encounter into a real time learning experience, my "University on Wheels". If elected, I will devote myself full time, year round to being your best Delegate, meeting with all interested individuals and groups, to transform our interactions into actionable outcomes that improves our lives. I am independent minded, creative, responsible and positive. Earlier in life, I was a senior executive in a public software company, founded my own research company, pioneered over 20 new products and services and hold several domestic and international patents. We have many challenges ahead of us. We need politicians who are compassionate, willing to meet and listen to people in person and do the hard work of finding solutions. Please call me at 301-257-8045 or email me at johnwalshformd@gmail.com.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. I want to establish a new paradigm of service to constituents. Almost all Delegates work intensely during the legislative session from January to April, as required, then return to their "day" jobs, relegating their Delegate position to social media and meetings. All of my opponents have "day" jobs. I will work full time year round. I want this new paradigm to produce better legislative results but just as importantly a new positive attitude towards involvement and

government. 2. I want to find new ways for people to engage with government and policy. I intend to set up volunteer committees on the issues important to residents in the 20th District. Participation in these committees will be open to all. I intend to work closely with Montgomery County Council members and our Congressman, Jamie Raskin to collectively solve issues. As I mentioned earlier, I look forward to meeting with you. Please contact me: 301-257-8045, johnwalshformd@gmail.com. 3. New "lifestyle" legislation to: address affordable, quality child care for every child; new initiatives in affordable housing, safer schools and streets, expanded economic development and jobs for District 20 residents in eastern Montgomery County.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I agree with the premise of the question that the solution requires a "balancing act". My perspective is that we have to support and encourage public safety departments and local, state and federal governments to continuously evaluate and improve our responses to criminal behavior and develop new strategies, approaches and tactics to protect all residents. At the same time we need to recognize that the challenges these public safety departments face can be reduced by taking a hard look at what needs to be done to prevent the increases in crime including quality child care, education and early intervention with troubled youth. As a young man I tutored in a first offender rehabilitation program in DC and later was a counselor in a social service program that provided 16-18 year olds that were out of school with GED training, personal life skills and on the job training opportunities. I have seen the positive impacts of social programs personally. We are fortunate that we have not had any mass shooting events in Maryland with military weapons. Unlike some other states, we have a ban on these weapons. But we are experiencing rapid increases in shootings and deaths with handguns and we all know that drugs and gangs are closely connected to these shootings. If elected, I intend to investigate the current efforts with public safety, educators and social services leaders and support additional efforts.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

As I mentioned earlier, I want to expand the involvement of all people including organizations in the process of creating our future. I am open to all ideas and want to encourage every organization to approach me with their ideas on how, with state support, they can be more effective. From my perspective, it is more efficient for the State of Maryland to invest in organizations that already have the presence, knowledge, programs and infrastructures than to create or expand a new state organization.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Affordable housing is one of my top three initiatives. We need a focus on this issue in the District, the County and the State level with specific goals. We need a new vision of affordable housing and support at all levels to remove the barriers that restrict these goals and vision. It really is time to envision the future.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

This issue is personal, as it should be, with everyone. We all have a responsibility to reject hate and extend love and acceptance. As a younger man, I was an Equal Employment Office counselor and investigated and resolved complaints of all types of discrimination in work. I am a Catholic, my wife is Jewish. Every incident of racism or discrimination is cause for a moment of pause and reflection in our lives. Leaders in all walks of life have a responsibility to denounce, investigate and prosecute these anti-semitic attacks but we need to do more. We need to address the person or persons who commit these acts, to try to help them understand how their soul and mind has been poisoned and help them recover.

### **What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I do not see BDS as an effective means of resolving the land disputes, reducing hostilities or creating a permanent peaceful solution.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Both Maryland and Israel are incubators of new technologies. I am a supporter of all efforts to expand the business and cultural relationships between Maryland and Israel and for Maryland to invest in new Israeli companies as they seek expansion into North America. Congratulations to the Maryland/Israel Development Center as they celebrate 30 years of success this month!

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I believe our primary focus should be on protecting the Chesapeake Bay, our greatest natural resource. All efforts to protect the Chesapeake will have simultaneous benefits to other efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Additionally, I would like to see Maryland encourage the transition to electric vehicles by extending their rebates for installation of home charging stations beyond June, 2022 and exploring other incentives to expedite the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. I am a supporter of new investments in water power and solar panel technologies and programs.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am pro-choice in accordance with Roe vs. Wade and support the current laws of the State of Maryland.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I certainly support the concept of assisting low income families switch from a public school system that is unable to meet their needs to a suitable private educational environment. Not all students who apply are accepted and not all students who are eligible apply so there is an unserved need in this area. If elected, I will look into this program for further funding and expansion.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

I don't have a position on this subject at this time. I am happy to speak with anyone who is advocating for this investment and undertake the research to acquaint myself with all of the facets.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

I'm willing to accept the premise that there is a "lack of affordable assisted living options" and this issue needs immediate attention. I do not have enough time before my response is due, however, to acquaint myself with the information necessary to provide a recommendation or solution. I promise to look into this issue and, as I reach a conclusion, provide my assessment during the campaign. Anyone interested in talking to me about this issue can reach me at 301-257-8045 or johnwalshformd@gmail.com

**Jheanelle Wilkins**

Did not submit a response.

**D39 - Democratic**

**Gabriel Acevero**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Since 2018 I've had the honor and privilege of serving the people of District 39 in the Maryland House of Delegates. Prior to being elected, my work with community groups helped

pass the Dream Act, automatic voter registration, and LGBTQ equality. Since then, I've helped pass numerous pieces of legislation that moves our state forward; from raising the minimum wage to protecting our environment. My work as a member of the House Appropriations Committee includes strengthening workers rights, healthcare for all, and increasing funding for public services. I've served as the 2nd Vice Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus and I'm a member of the Executive Board of the Legislative Latino Caucus. I believe my experience provides me with the tools to deliver on my vision for D39

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Healthcare, guaranteed income and free tuition at Maryland public colleges and universities.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I've been a leader in the movement for police reform, fighting for and passing bills such as Anton's Law which successfully established transparency in policing, and the repeal of qualified immunity. But the most significant step we can take to reduce crime is eliminating the social determinants of crime: investing in free, public education from early childhood to post-secondary, building a robust green public transit system that connects communities and people to jobs, and ensuring access to critical public services such as crisis centers.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Support. Addressing societal problems requires collaboration with public as well as non-profits providing service.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I believe we have to take a two pronged approach to the affordability crisis. The first, we must build more green social housing, providing affordable, dignified, and safe housing to every Marylander. The second, to stop predatory raise rates, and keep people in their homes, we must pass statewide rent control measures and just cause eviction.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

As a member of Appropriations, I've voted to increase funding for security upgrades at places of worship to include synagogues, and been a vocal advocate against the scourge of White Supremacy.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I believe in the constitutional right of every American to voice and organize their opposition to human rights abuses, whether they're committed at home or abroad, by U.S. ally or enemy, and that efforts to silence these voices violate free speech and the First Amendment.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

Maryland should engage with all of our foreign partners on the same basis of shared respect for human rights and mutual economic benefit, and I believe that those same standards should be applied to Israel.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Climate change is an existential threat from which Marylanders will not be spared. We know the cost of not adequately meeting these crises, not just in human and ecological terms, but in gross dollar amounts. That's why I'm proud to have voted for the Clean Energy Jobs Act and the Climate Solutions Act, significant pieces of legislation that's a step in the right direction. Further, I support policies like a Green New Deal that will protect our natural resources, place utilities in public hands, decarbonize our grid and expand transit.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I'm pro-choice and pro-bodily autonomy. I'm proud to have voted for the Access to Abortion Care Act this session, but this is not enough. As Roe V. Wade is dismantled and states across the country infringe upon the right to an abortion, we must ensure that Maryland codifies this essential right, and work toward truly establishing ourself as an abortion haven by providing Free Abortions, On Demand, and Without Apology.

**What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

Per the Maryland Constitution, we have a

responsibility to fund public education and that where I believe our public dollars should be spent.

**What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

Support.

**How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

My Healthy Maryland Act includes both long-term care and in-home services provisions for every Marylander, no matter their status or income. And my LGBTQ Seniors Bill of Rights ensures that none of our seniors are left behind, even those who exist outside of traditional family structures.

**Lesley Lopez**

Did not submit a response.

**Kirill Reznik**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

The experience that I have gained as a member of the House has proven invaluable in my ability to deliver for my constituents. I believe that there is still much more I can do in

expanding services and providing opportunity, and the next four years will prove consequential in the futures of the people of District 39. Whether it is expanding transportation options, working to continue to expand healthcare access, or making sure our most vulnerable are protected, either from the uncertainties of the economy or the difficulties of navigating the system, I am here for them. Being a member of the House has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life and I'm not done yet.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

There are, of course, many issues we will need address in the upcoming term, and I intend to play an important role in all of them. However, if I have to pick three priorities that will define my agenda over the next four years, it will be: 1. I want to make sure we fulfill the promise of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and make sure it is implemented effectively to get the maximum potential out of our students. However, that also includes making sure they are prepared to learn, even with the best schools, resources and teachers. I am committed to making sure that students have the nutritional needs they require by expanding school meals programs and working to have mental health resources available in every school to deal with both catastrophic and every day challenges students may be having. 2. Our state is woefully underfunded and under-resourced for our mental health and addiction needs. I will work to provide adequate funding so we have the appropriate number of placements, resources, and professionals in place to meet this growing challenge. 3. It's no secret that my constituents face transportation challenges. Though I am not opposed to roads, we need to make sure that all of my constituents have the options they need to be able to get to work and back home in a reasonable time. That includes roads, but also as heavy, if not a heavier, emphasis on transit options.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Police serve a critical role in our community in making sure that law is enforced and crime is dealt with appropriately, but like any other professional, law enforcement officers are responsible for their actions and to the people they serve. These concepts are not mutual exclusive. In fact, when combined with appropriate training, personal responsibility, and a connect to the community they serve, law enforcement can do their job with the support of the community they police. That means appropriate prosecutions when law enforcement fails in their duty, and appropriate oversight, such as body cameras and civil review boards to keep them honest. However, lowering crime is not solely the job of law enforcement. Crime rises when opportunities for an education and jobs falter. For too long, we have criminalized minor crimes forcing those arrested into the judicial system. Once they get out, they have a hard time getting a job, finding a place to live, or pursuing a normal life. That is why I have supported two policies that I believe

will help. First, I have voted to move minor offenses like marijuana position out of the criminal sphere and expunging the records of those convicted of it, and second, supported every opportunity for returning citizens to re-engage with society, including the ability to vote, get housing, access educational programs, and get jobs. I will continue to support these initiatives, while also making sure law enforcement is appropriately funded, trained, and given oversight.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Maryland?**

Nonprofit organizations, especially social service agencies, play a critical role in delivering needed services to our community. I am wholly in support of government partnering with nonprofit organizations in a variety of ways. However, there are limitations to where I believe those partnerships should go, especially when the services being provided are inherently governmental in nature.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Montgomery County is expensive to live in, but if we are going to succeed as an economy we need to serve all income levels, especially teachers, first responders, and other professionals who are the lifeline of our community. We need to actively play a role in expanding affordable housing that is transit focused, as well as make sure that these professionals are paid appropriately so that they can live, work, and raise their families in Montgomery County. This will also have a multiplier affect and help to grow our economy and small business sector that serves our entire populations.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

I would like to take a look at expanding our security grants programs. There is already money available from the federal government and a little from the State. We can expand this program to make sure that houses of worship are able to provide for appropriate security as necessary. Government also has a role to play in bringing interfaith communities together and expand opportunities to engage in dialogue with those that believe in hate (obviously this would require a safe manner and a willingness to engage). We will not arrest and prosecute our way out of hate. That being said, we need to make sure appropriate resources are available to enforce and prosecute hate crimes and discourage this behavior, in addition to security measures and dialogue.

**What is your position on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement?**

I completely support anyone's right to peacefully protest and will always fight for those rights. However, I am opposed to the BDS movement. I believe it is counterproductive and does not achieve the goals which it purportedly espouses. We need more productive ways to engage in dialogue and air grievances.

**What are your positions and proposals, if any, regarding the economic relationship between Maryland and Israel?**

The economic relationship between Maryland and Israel has proven incredibly fruitful and should be encouraged and expanded. Many Marylanders now work for companies based throughout the State, including my district, as a result of this program. I also believe it should serve as a model for establishing similar relationships with other ally countries as well.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the State be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

This year, we passed the most comprehensive and expansion climate action legislation in the country, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. It is now our responsible to implement it fully. We also need to work with our counterparts in DC and Virginia to do the same. It is my hope, and believe, that if the three of us work together, other States will follow suit and climate action will become a priority for a number of states.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am 100% in favor of a women's right to choice and to make her own choices regarding reproduction. I have been a proud defender of abortion access in the State budget for years, and even more proud to

join this year with my fellow legislators to exact the Abortion Care Access Act.

### **What are your views about continuing or expanding The BOOST (Better Options & Opportunities for Students Today) scholarship program?**

I am opposed to BOOST and the funding of it in the State budget. I have no issues with parents that want to send their kids to private school, but I do not believe that it is the responsibility of the State to pay for it. The program is currently limited to existing

students and their siblings and as a result is set to wind down as those students graduate. I will support that process but will not support its maintenance or expansion beyond those parameters.

### **What is your position on providing State support for nursing, transportation, technology, security and other secular programs and services in nonpublic schools?**

In principle, I believe the same measures should be applied to these resources as to BOOST, however, I

understand that the State has maintained a tradition of limited funding for secular materials and technology. I have no intention of disrupting that, but again, do not see a need for expansion.

### **How will your administration address the lack of affordable assisted living options for older Marylanders who rely on Medicaid for their health care?**

I have worked closely with the assisted living community to help overcome barriers to funding for seniors, including supporting not just assisted living

or nursing facilities, but other step down measures such as adult medical day care and aging in place programs, to try and limit the need of assisted living when possible. I am open to discussing funding options and legislation that might help to maintain the ability of these facilities to serve seniors, but I currently do not have any specific proposals at this time.

## **Clint Sobratti**

Did not submit a response.

## **Candidates For MD Attorney General – Democratic**

### **Anthony Brown**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

As a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, my legal education, training, and experience—along with my public sector experience—have prepared me to serve as Attorney General and lead the largest public interest law firm in the State of Maryland, consisting of more than 450 attorneys and 250 support professionals. My legal practice experience in state and federal courts, representing clients against big tobacco, small businesses against giant corporations, and defending the constitutionality of federal gun safety laws is broader than any other candidate for Attorney General. I've represented criminal defendants, children in need of assistance, and class action plaintiffs. I have experience in managing legal professionals, including commanding an Army Legal Support Organization of 80 lawyers and paralegals, equivalent to a medium-sized law firm, representing soldiers in criminal cases, providing legal assistance with estate planning, and educating and advocating for soldiers and their families on consumer protection matters. In Annapolis, I served as Vice Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee while serving in the General Assembly, and I led the O'Malley Brown Administration's efforts on several initiatives relevant to the responsibilities of the Attorney General, including enacting the Maryland False Health Claims Act, which has resulted in recovering more than \$160 million for Maryland taxpayers since 2011, repealing the death penalty, granting judges the power to order domestic abusers to surrender their firearms when issuing a protective order, establishing the criminal offense of intentional child neglect, and leading the public outreach effort that led to the ban on assault weapons, large capacity magazines and the broader, fingerprint-based background check now required in Maryland before purchasing a firearm. In Congress, I have been a leader on removing Confederate names from military installations and on military justice reform issues, addressing the racial disparities that have existed for decades.

#### **What are the 3 things you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

As Attorney General, three of my goals will be 1) establishing an independent civil rights enforcement division within the Office, with a focus on voting rights, women's reproductive health rights and access to care, and the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community; 2) obtaining authority to independently investigate and enforce environmental laws, with a focus on environmental justice; and 3) improving public safety, with a focus on addressing hate crimes and reforming policing and our criminal system. First, I will work with the General Assembly to establish the Civil Rights Enforcement Division modeled after California's division.

Today, the OAG's Civil Rights Division primarily partners with and advises the Maryland Civil Rights Commission. However, the OAG does not have broad enforcement authority when it comes to violations of federal and state civil rights laws. This will change on my watch. Second, every Marylander deserves the opportunity to live in a healthy and safe community. This is especially true for low-income communities that suffer disproportionate exposure to pollution and the corresponding health impacts. I will expand the existing Environmental Crimes Unit to include a Bureau of Environmental Justice comprised of attorneys who focus on fighting environmental injustices throughout the state and giving a voice to frontline communities who are all too often under-resourced and overburdened. Third, I will dedicate more resources to improving public safety in every community. Not only strengthening partnerships between state, federal and local law enforcement, but also reforming policing and our criminal system. While the General Assembly enacted reforms that limit police officers' use of force and no-knock warrants and establishes police accountability boards to receive complaints of misconduct from the public, more can and should be done, including authorizing the OAG to conduct pattern or practice investigations of an agency where there is evidence of repeated police misconduct.

#### **How will you use the Office of Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and promote public safety?**

The Attorney General has an important role in combatting hate crimes and antisemitism and promoting public safety. My record in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill reflect my commitment to fulfilling this important role. On the Armed Services Committee, I've taken the lead on addressing extremism in the military, where extremist groups increasingly seek to recruit members and acquire lethal training in firearms, explosives, and tactics. I co-sponsored the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, to improve the collection of federal hate crimes statistics and provide the Department of Justice the ability to better analyze these crimes and provide funding for tracking hate crimes at the state and local level. I also voted for the Domestic Terror Prevention Act, and as AG will implement the bill sponsored by Senator Hettleman and Delegate Rosenberg creating a task force to make recommendations on fighting domestic terrorism. Attorney General Frosh created a Hate Crimes Task Force to engage a broad cross-section of the community to make recommendations regarding how to better respond to hate crimes and bias incidents. I will build on the work of the task force, as well as expand access to the hate crimes hotline. I will also ensure implementation of the recently enacted law allowing judges to require an individual convicted of a hate crime to undergo an anti-bias education program. As I have on Capitol Hill, and as Lieutenant Governor, I will advocate for increased funding to enhance the security of our faith institutions, schools and day care centers that are at greater risk of hate crimes. And I will advocate during the 2023 Session for the immediate passage of the bill to require each county board of education to adopt a policy prohibiting the use or display of hate symbols such as a swastika or the confederate flag.

### **Katie Curran O'Malley**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I'm running to be Maryland's first female Attorney General because I have the experience and values Marylanders need in their top law enforcement official to keep people safe and to fight for their rights including equal justice for all. In Maryland right now we are facing some dire threats. People don't feel safe in their communities because of rising crime and gun violence, too many Marylanders still can't get equal justice because of the color of their skin AND our fundamental rights are under attack including women's reproductive rights and our right to vote. Maryland needs an Attorney General who is ready to do the job on day one. I have 30 years of experience working in our legal system to help victims get justice and to protect our community as a prosecutor and as a Judge. And I have been a national leader in the fight to end the epidemic of domestic violence. My courtroom experience is important because the Attorney General and their team of 400 lawyers are in courtrooms around the state everyday fighting for the people on issues like criminal justice, public safety, consumer protection, and the environment. My opponent Anthony Brown is a good man and I respect him. But he does not have the right experience to be Attorney General. He has spent his career as a politician and has not, even tried a case in a Maryland courtroom in more than a decade. I am the right woman for the job of Attorney general and I am the only candidate in the race with the experience to protect Marylanders from crime, to protect our fundamental rights and to fight for justice for all. And I am the best candidate to make sure we keep the Attorney General's office blue this Fall.

#### **What are the 3 things you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

We need to protect people against the rising crime that is plaguing our neighborhoods and that disproportionately impacts people of color. At the same time, we need to fight for real criminal justice reform so that everyone gets equal justice. That is why the first plan I released in my campaign detailed how I will fight for criminal justice reform as Attorney General. We are often faced with a false choice between safe communities or a fair and accountable criminal justice system. In truth, we can only achieve safer communities when there is fairness and equity in our criminal justice system. We can and must do both. Overturning Roe v Wade would be a direct attack on the human rights of every person here in Maryland and across the country. The gravity of this situation cannot and should not be overstated. Millions of people across the country will lose access to abortion care. As Maryland's first female Attorney General, I will never waver in my fight to ensure that our laws protect a person's right to choose. Marylanders are also seeing the real cost of climate change. This includes storm damage on the Eastern Shore, historic flooding in Ellicott City and other parts of the state and increasing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. As Attorney General, I will fight to make clean air, clean land, clean water, and clean energy the environmental legacy we leave our children and grandchildren.

#### **How will you use the Office of Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and promote public safety?**

One of the most shameful aspects of our national politics over the past 6 years has been an increasingly aggressive strain of white nationalism that attempts to give institutional sanction to the scourge of white nationalism and antisemitism. The Office of the Attorney General has the authority to investigate civil rights violations through the Civil Rights Division founded in 2017. Maryland, like the rest of the country, has seen antisemitism and hate crimes rise dramatically. Using the Attorney General's 2020 Hate Crimes Task Force report as a guide, I will make it a top priority to protect everyone in Maryland against violent crime and promote public safety. I will be able to start working to combat hate crimes on day one because I am the only candidate in this race with 30 years of experience working in our legal system to help victims get justice and to protect our community as a prosecutor and as a judge.

## **Republican**

### **Michael Peroutka**

Did not submit a response.

### **Jim Shalleck**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

My priority as Attorney General is to help reduce crime. I moved to Maryland in 1989 to work as a prosecutor in the United States Justice Department. Before that, I was an Assistant Attorney General in New York. Prior to that, I was an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx, New York serving primarily in the Homicide Bureau. I was promoted to Chief of the Homicide Bureau which handled, on occasion, over 400 homicides a year. I prosecuted David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam" killer for three Bronx homicides. I have the experience to prosecute violent and repeat offenders. We will set up a Major Offense Bureau in the Attorney General Office to assist or replace county State's Attorneys, if necessary, in prosecuting violent and repeat offenders. No plea bargaining or deals with these offenders. We must remove the worst of these criminals from the streets to keep us safe. I know the sound a mother makes when I had to tell her that her child was murdered. This has to stop.

#### **What are the 3 things you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

First, to help reduce the murder and violent crime rate in Maryland. Second, to help secure more funding and personnel for the police. Third, to fund and expand diversion programs for young and non-violent offenders to keep them out of a life of crime. For example, drug courts, mental health courts, community service programs, expanded counseling and therapy sessions, all designed to keep these offenders out of jail and on the road to a productive law-abiding life.

#### **How will you use the Office of Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and promote public safety?**

I have zero tolerance for hate crimes, antisemitic behavior, or any other discrimination against any race, gender, or minority group. These crimes must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. No plea bargaining or deals. If the local State's Attorneys won't do it, I will.

## Candidate For Comptroller - Democratic

### Tim Adams



#### Why are you running for this office?

I believe Maryland has an opportunity to make greater strides toward true equity. We are leaving too many resources on the table, ultimately hurting Maryland taxpayers who have to pick up the tab. We must close corporate

tax loopholes so wealthy corporations pay their fair share. And should voters legalize marijuana, we must be prepared to properly tax it, collect those taxes, and fight to invest those funds in education. Additionally, Maryland continues to fall woefully short in ensuring equitable opportunities for minority and women owned businesses. The next Comptroller can play a tremendous role in ensuring that we make progress on these issues. As a Mayor who has governed during COVID, balancing budgets without raising taxes, and a CEO with more than 30 years of experience running one of the largest black owned companies in America, I know how to manage large, complex organizations to achieve the tax fairness and equity that Marylanders deserve.

#### What skills are required to be an effective Comptroller? Why do you have that skill set?

Maryland is a portrait of inequality – the state with among the most dynamic economies in the nation

also contains communities, particularly rural areas and Black and Brown neighborhoods, that do not share in the state's economic opportunity. My own success as a Black man in business was an outlier, obtained only with tremendous work overcoming adversity. Economic and social change will remain elusive without greater fiscal transparency and government accountability. The office of Comptroller is an important piece of this puzzle. The Comptroller can participate in direct interventions, like making tax collection simpler and fairer, making procurement more equitable, and advancing state capital investment in Black and Brown neighborhoods and rural areas. But the office's broad constitutional mandate provides an opportunity to make the government more accountable through investigations, audits, and reports on government spending. To achieve all this, the comptroller has to have a demonstrated track record in executive leadership and advocacy with deep experience managing budgets and complex organizations. I bring 30 years of that kind of executive leadership and experience in both the public and private sectors. I have rigorously evaluated capital investments, improved equity in services, and prioritized transparency, as both a CEO and Mayor. This is the experience needed to make our government more equitable and accountable so that we can better invest in top priorities like education.

#### What do you hope to accomplish in this position?

I hope to achieve a fairer and more accountable and equitable government. There is a great deal more that can be done to level the playing field in Maryland, help poor and middle class families thrive, and ensure small businesses and women and minority-owned businesses have the same opportunities to grow. I believe we can greatly enhance the ability of the comp-

troller's office to more efficiently prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, and in doing so identify savings that can be reinvested in our communities particularly in education. As comptroller, ensuring that we are not leaving any resources on the table and identifying more funds that can be invested in education will be a top priority.

### Brooke Lierman



#### Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for State Comptroller because now is the time for us to be bold & do better in Maryland. We have a unique opportunity now to reimagine how the Comptroller's office can tackle our state's economic challenges,

including the racial wealth divide, school funding, and climate change, while also building more financially-resilient families and small businesses. I know that over the next four years, we can change Maryland for the better for the next forty years: ensuring that we are using the power of the purse and procurement to build generational wealth and tackle economic inequality - building stronger and more stable communities and businesses.

#### What skills are required to be an effective Comptroller? Why do you have that skill set?

As the elected chief financial officer for the state of Maryland, our Comptroller must be a leader who embraces creative ideas and has the ability to put those ideas into action – from big ideas on wealth-building policies to the little details that make it easier for families and businesses to pay taxes and access state programs and benefits. I've been an effective leader as

a civil rights & disability rights attorney and as a state delegate - both in the communities I represent and passing landmark legislation for the past eight years. As a leader on the state's fiscal committees, including chair of the Pensions Committee, I have a track record of getting big things done - passing the largest MTA funding bill in history, the first-ever styrofoam ban, the state's first gun violence prevention program. I'll be ready on day one to lead the office, advocate for families and small businesses, and modernize the agency to increase accountability and transparency.

#### What do you hope to accomplish in this position?

As Comptroller, I will create an office dedicated to building a stronger and more equitable economy over the long term - one that invests our money wisely, achieves best value for every dollar spent and removes the barriers that exist to creating economic opportunity and prosperity for all Marylanders. We will activate the 12 field offices around the state to do grassroots work in communities; we will modernize the computing infrastructure to use data to help guide decision-making; we will ensure MBE goals are met on each & every contract, and we will maintain our AAA Bond Rating and secure our pension fund. I will streamline the state procurement and payment systems so businesses want to do business with the State. As one of only three statewide, independently-elected officials, I will provide strong independent oversight of our state's financial resources and be an advocate for families, communities, and small businesses. The resources of the Comptroller's office will be used to lift up and support all those who are trying to build a good life in Maryland, and ensure that we are prepared to tackle economic inequality & safeguard our communities against climate change.



# Montgomery County Executive/Councilmembers

## Candidates For County Executive – Republican

### Shelly Skolnick



#### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am a moderate. Most candidates are to the far left or far right. We need more moderates who are willing to negotiate reasonable solutions.

#### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1. Make Montgomery County Government more efficient. 2. Make Montgomery County Government more convenient to the residents, businesses and visitors. 3. Cure the traffic congestion by improving mass transit and reduce the number of vehicles on the highways and local roads.

#### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I am proposing free tuition at Montgomery College for students who perform volunteer services in Montgomery County Government and the public schools. A large number of the student volunteers could be police auxiliary who would perform administrative tasks and other services such as directing traffic. Thus, the police would spend more time in the community to improve public safety.

#### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

Public support of nonprofit organizations should be based on competitive solicitations.

#### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

The County should reduce the real property taxes on rental units that are offered to public sector employees at affordable rental rates.

#### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Assigning an officer at each house of worship during religious holidays and other days when there are many people at the house of worship.

#### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Improve public transit to significantly reduce the number of vehicles on our roads.

#### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

The Roe v. Wade decision should be set forth in a reasonable amendment to the U.S. constitution.

#### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

I want to encourage nonprofits to be more efficient (just as I want the Montgomery County Government to be more efficient).

#### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

I would need to review the total amounts being requested, to determine what is affordable.

### Reardon Sullivan



#### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As a Republican and Chair of the Montgomery County GOP, I offer that a different, more conservative perspective is needed in the County to help balance out the 50+ elected offices that are currently held by Democrats. The

career politicians that have led this County for over 12 years have done a disservice to our citizens with their failed policies of over-taxing, over-mandating, and over-regulating. We need a return to common sense solutions that are not based in ideological rhetoric. As a Black male who has grown up in the County, I offer a broader range of perception and understanding than the other candidates. I am not beholden to any part of a political machine that needs to reelect itself every four years. I will be able to bring innovative ideas that are not filtered by the constraints of a prior failed policies. I will embrace business, and the jobs they bring, to grow our tax base and fund the good things that we want to do in the County.

#### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

My campaign is centered on three basic, common sense issues: public safety, education, and the local economy. Crime is on the rise in Montgomery County, and we must get it under control. There are candidates running for public office that seek to defund the police and take school resource officers (SROs) out of our schools. I favor funding the police and providing the best training possible, stationing SROs in every County high school to develop relationships with the students and giving our police and first responders the respect that they deserve. Montgomery County used to have some of the best schools in the nation. Currently, Montgomery County does not have any high schools in the top 100, per U.S. News & World Report. An example of the decline of our school system is Watkins Mill High School, which is graduating 81% of their students but only 3% are proficient in math. Our County is hurting economically. We are lagging the region in job growth and business development. In an analysis comparing Montgomery County to 20 other similar counties, we see that the total number of jobs in the County grew by just 5% between 2004 and 2019, while our peers grew jobs by an average of 21%. This failure is the direct result of the policies, procedures, and attitudes of the County Executive and County Council. The attitude of local government has to change. I will implement policies that embrace business. Business provides jobs, and a tax base that allows us to do all the good things that we want to do here in Montgomery County from infrastructure upgrades to affordable housing. I plan to bring common sense, cooperation, and compromise back to local government, get away from identity politics, and work to find the best solutions.

#### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Crime is on the rise in Montgomery County, and we must get it under control. We must properly fund the police and pay them appropriately. Our police have been underpaid/under-compensated for years by the County. Currently, officers can work for the Capital Police in Washington and make a 30% higher salary. We need to change the attitude of the County Executive and County Council to view the police as the true asset they are and not disrespect them. There are candidates running for public office that seek to defund the police and take school resource officers (SROs) out of our schools. I favor funding the police and providing the best training possible, stationing SROs in every County high school to develop relationships with the students and giving our police and first responders the respect that they deserve. The police advisory board, and the police advisory commission, should include members of law enforcement and a requirement that members must have completed an extended course at the citizens academy and have gone on a police ride-a-long. We need to reform courts to hold judges and prosecutors responsible for letting violent offenders back out on the street.

#### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

There are nonprofit organizations that do excellent work

for all the residents of the County for the benefit of the citizens of the County and these should be supported. The nonprofit organizations that were formed or operate as part of a political or partisan handshake should not be funded.

#### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

The first thing we must do is truly study the issue post COVID. The study most people are quoting is the Council of Governments (COG) study from 2019. One of the many things we learned during COVID is that many people (especially those under 35 years of age) want to work from home. Home can be anywhere, such as Fredrick, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, etc. People do not have to live in Montgomery County to work here, which will have a direct bearing on where people live. Furthermore, with the lack of jobs and declining schools in Montgomery County, the projected housing needs from the 2019 study might be incorrect. Until we fix our basic issues of public safety, education, transportation, and economic growth, I would offer that the influx of homeowners would not be as previously projected. I support the creation of transit-oriented affordable housing near transportation, where the infrastructure can support it. This could be done as part of an open-book P3 partnership. I support stipends for public servants such as police and first responders to allow them to live in the areas they serve.

#### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

All crime is on the rise in Montgomery County. We must properly fund the police and special investigative units and pay them appropriately. We must continue to maintain and train SWAT and forensic investigation units. We must maintain a zero tolerance for hate crime. Once convicted, you go to prison, no plea bargaining. Our police have been underpaid/under-compensated for years by the County. Currently, officers can work for the Capital Police in Washington and make a 30% higher salary. We need to reform courts to hold judges and prosecutors responsible for letting perpetrators of hate crime back out on the street. We need to change the attitude of the County Executive and County Council to viewing the police as the true asset they are and not disrespecting them. There are candidates running for public office that seek to defund the police and take school resource officers (SROs) out of our schools. I favor funding the police and providing the best training possible and giving our police and first responders the respect that they deserve.

#### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Studies show that 40% of our electrical power is used in the built environment. In the County Executive race, I am the only Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional (LEED AP), who understands and has done green design. I feel that the County should pursue policies for green design that are both effective and cost efficient. I would start by retrofitting County buildings with LEED EBOM and designing for new County buildings to achieve LEED Gold certification. This will both set an example and lower yearly operating costs for County buildings. I believe that the County should incentivize building owners to achieve higher than LEED Gold though tax incentives. Special consideration should be given to projects that achieve LEED innovation points. These changes can be achieved without creating a new agency, employing additional staff and office space to develop green mandates that will stifle business. Secondly, we need to improve transportation in the County to reduce travel times for commuters. This would include widening 270 and providing reversible lanes, the construction of M-83, and optimizing bus routes. Lastly, the County should invest in solar technology. The County has received an energy tax and \$130 million for renewable energy from Pepco. The current County Executive has been sweeping that money into the general fund when it should have been used for the development of alternative energy. Please see this video: <https://youtu.be/EkXFDjwbfro>

#### What are your policies regarding

#### reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

The policies regarding abortion are determined at the national/state level. My job as the County Executive will be to uphold the law.

#### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

There are nonprofit agencies that do excellent work for all the residents of the County for the benefit of the citizens of the County and these should be supported. The nonprofit organizations that were formed or operate as part of a political or partisan handshake should not be funded.

#### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

We must properly fund the police and special investigative units and pay them appropriately to protect all. We must continue to maintain and train SWAT and forensic investigation units. We must maintain a zero tolerance for hate crime. Once convicted, you go to prison, no plea bargaining.

## Candidates For County Executive – Democratic

### David Blair



#### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Montgomery County needs experienced and effective executive leadership to set big goals, empower the incredible talent and resources in our community, and move with urgency and follow-through to

get things done. That's what I will bring to this position. This County is my home and the place I love because of the opportunities it afforded me. I grew up in Rockville and Darnestown, my wife and I are raising our family here, and I've lived in Montgomery County my entire life. I built a Fortune 500 company in Rockville with a \$6 billion budget (roughly the size of the County's budget) and was named one of the "World's Most Admired Healthcare Companies." Over the last 10 years since selling my business, my wife and I have become deeply involved in nonprofit and community advocacy. We've seen the challenges we face - poverty, food insecurity, and education inequity. I've partnered with community leaders, faith institutions, elected leaders, education institutions, and other nonprofits around the County to start an entrepreneurship program at The Universities at Shady Grove, pass tax reform at the ballot box to create a more progressive and fairer tax system, train Black leaders to run for office, and provide food and resources directly to those hit hardest by the pandemic. We need a County Executive who is going to restore our schools to the best in the State, address rising crime while improving policing, act on climate change instead of just talking about it, and make it more affordable to live here. We have some of the most talented residents in the world and are one of the wealthiest counties in the country. What's missing is effective executive leadership to empower that talent, put our resources to their best use, and get the job done.

#### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Grow 1,000 new businesses in Montgomery County: The loss of good-paying jobs we've seen impacts everything we do. Over the last 10 years, Montgomery County has lost \$5.2 billion in net income tax revenue, according to IRS data. This is revenue we need to pay for services to support our residents, school teachers and classrooms, transportation infrastructure, and public safety. I'll change the culture of Montgomery County Government to work with businesses instead of putting hurdles in their way, harness our County's natural entrepreneurial spirit by providing capital to growing small businesses, and increase the amount of County spending being done with local small businesses. Triple solar energy production on County property, plant 10,000 trees a year, and start curbside composting collection to remove the up to 160,000 tons of compostable food waste from being burned each year at the County's Dickerson incinerator - so we can start making progress on our carbon emission reduction goals. Everyone who works in Montgomery County

deserves to be able to afford to live in Montgomery County. We'll build affordable housing at underutilized Metro and future Purple Line stations as well as County-owned parking garages, lots, and other properties to make it more possible for nurses, teachers, first responders, and new families who work in Montgomery County to be able to live in Montgomery County.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Public safety is job number one for a County Executive and I will support good police officers while improving policing by increasing mental health responders, solidifying de-escalation training and tactics, and investing in special recruitment efforts to bring more diverse officer candidates and more women officer candidates into the department. I'm going to support full funding for our police department because all residents in our County deserve to be respected and safe. I lose all energy when I hear the current County Executive blame national trends for the rapid increase in violent and serious crime we've seen in Montgomery County after he's reduced the number of officers and made recommendations and public comments denigrating the work good officers are trying to do. The same can be said for the increase in school violence once the County Executive removed School Resource Officers with no suitable replacement program and without delivering promised additional resources for mental health needs.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

Nonprofit organizations are critical to meeting our responsibility to serve residents and improve their lives because they're the people talking to and seeing people on a daily basis. I've seen this firsthand through our nonprofit work over the past decade and I believe Montgomery County can do a much better job of supporting nonprofits with processes and regulations that treat them as partners. Too often, I hear from nonprofit providers who feel they're being treated suspiciously or unfairly when it comes to grant funding or other regulations by the County. We must change this culture in County Government and look to provide longer-term grant agreements than just one year so that nonprofits have the ability to plan for the long term.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Everyone who works in Montgomery County deserves to be able to afford to live in Montgomery County. And right now that is far from true because we simply haven't built enough housing to keep up with demand - forcing too many people to move, buy, or rent elsewhere. We'll build the thousands of new housing units we need at underutilized Metro and future Purple Line stations as well as County-owned parking garages, lots, and other properties to increase the number of total units and income-restricted affordable units. We need both market rate and affordable housing to increase affordability at all levels. The advantage of using County property to co-locate affordable housing is we can more easily require builders to put in deeply affordable units. And there are already real-world examples of how the County can help finance and fund new, higher quality affordable housing units to replace aging, less safe units without displacing the residents who live there now. We need to expand on that work in all areas of Montgomery County.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I will continue and expand the security grant program for faith institutions that County Executive Ike Leggett started and increase funding that can be used for operating costs such as off-duty police officers or security personnel - in addition to equipment and building improvements and giving police the resources they need to prevent acts of hate or violence.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Montgomery County must do a lot more and much more urgently than we have. That urgency and ability to implement big projects on reducing carbon emissions is why I earned the Sierra Club endorsement. Fortunately, solutions are known and other jurisdictions around the State and region have already provided the model. We will triple solar energy production on County property - similar to Howard County, which last year began building 24 MW of solar energy on a combination of county and private properties through a solar purchasing agreement with a solar provider.

We have empty landfills, County building roofs, and empty future school sites where we can make similar progress. We'll plant 10,000 trees a year, up from the roughly 1,800 the County plants annually now, to provide the cooling, carbon reduction, and stormwater retention benefits that a healthy tree canopy provides. Baltimore County planted 11,000 trees last year and focused their planting on equity emphasis areas where canopy had been significantly degraded over time. We'll also implement curbside composting collection like Arlington County did last year to remove the up to 160,000 tons of compostable food waste from being burned each year at the County's Dickerson incinerator. By removing the number one type of waste being burned at the incinerator, we can reduce the amount of waste in the County to an amount that makes it more practical to shut down the incinerator - which itself is a major carbon emitter.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I support a woman's right to choose and will work as County Executive to protect women accessing abortion health care, protect abortion health care providers, and support expansion of this critical health care service for when the Supreme Court majority goes through with its egregious and legally incorrect overturn of Roe v. Wade.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I support more operating dollars for nonprofit organizations. Through my own experience in nonprofit advocacy, I've seen the incredible impact nonprofits have and I've also seen County grant processes that are cumbersome, burdensome, and that don't allow nonprofits to plan for more than a year at a time with multi-year grants or contracts.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I fully support increasing funding for operating costs - including for security and off-duty police officers - at houses of worship and other faith-based nonprofit organizations.

## **Marc Elrich**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I have shown leadership in the past 3 1/2 years as your County Executive. We had a worldwide pandemic and there was no road map on how to handle it. Despite a constant barrage of criticism that the restrictions were too strict and too long, I followed the science and listened to our public health experts because we recognized that the more doors we opened for people, the more doors we would end up opening for COVID to spread in the community. We focused on keeping people safe and minimizing the death toll. And we did it equitably with the most vulnerable receiving the vaccines first. The fact that we had some of the best health outcomes in the country validated that decision. At the same time, we were able to make progress in other important areas. We maintained our AAA bond rating and improved our fiscal status with passage of Question A, which I championed and the credit agencies called "credit positive." We launched a comprehensive climate action plan, negotiated four innovative affordable housing projects leveraging county owned property, improved transparency in procurement and instituted a preference for local purchasing, among other accomplishments. My knowledge of and experience in this county is also important. I have worked with communities all over the County, and I served as an at-large County Councilmember for 12 years, and I taught in a high poverty MCPS elementary school for 17 years.

### **What are 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Continuing our focus on educational equity. Quality Early Childhood Education makes it possible for children to enter school on a level playing field & has long-term impacts on academic achievement. Fully funding our school system is vital - it's a major reason people want to live here, & we must make sure that all students are prepared for their next step after graduation. I will continue our work to support MC, including an East County campus & supporting their efforts to create programs that develop talent pipelines for jobs with worker shortages. 2. Continuing our work on economic development & maintaining the County's improved fiscal health. We started the first local business purchasing preference in procurement. We provide more assistance & guidance from the beginning & work with applicants to solve problems not rejecting applications. We restored locally-focused economic assistance through business advancement teams, helping people navigate the regulations & grow

their businesses. I have aggressively recruited life science companies & are seeing record lab space construction in a sector that was completely flat when I became CE. Building off our strengths in the hospitality, computing related industries, I've worked with WMATA creating a joint development agreement of the undeveloped land in North Bethesda. And working with the University of Maryland about more aggressively supporting the life sciences industry & signed an agreement to develop a graduate level program. 3. We need to build out our BRT system & redesign Ride-On to complement it. When I proposed it 12 years ago, my goal was to get ahead of Virginia but we didn't have the resources. Four years ago, the Post reported regional business leaders said the lack of adequate transportation is an impediment to economic development. We're now ready to seek federal funds after receiving the first funding from the state, our revenue picture has allowed us to do more with our budget.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I don't see those two as incompatible. Police reform helps us improve public safety so that all our communities feel safe. Police reform builds trust, which is a plus as we discovered with the Latino community. Our advocacy for the immigrant community has paid off because we have a reputation of protecting immigrants from indiscriminate federal actions so they trust us and are willing to work with us. We have never asked our police not to police - it's about how they police. Reform is to make sure that policing is done in line with community standards. We need to change how we train police officers, to give them better tools to deal with the issues they confront. I have been working with community members as well as the police and an outside firm, EL4A to determine how to improve our practices and policies. Two years ago, I negotiated higher wages for our police officers to make the pay competitive with the region. While the Council did not consider the proposal at the time. But now in an election year they have just approved these increases for the coming year, which will help us attract and retain officers.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

As mentioned above, our nonprofit partners are invaluable, and stepped up during the pandemic to help us reach vulnerable communities - the elderly, low-income, disabled, and others. They extend the reach of government, and they have deeper roots in the community. They have a deep commitment to this county and our residents, which is why I moved to increase their funding and have begun to change their funding process so that it is more reliable and efficient. We are also bringing more of the programs into the county's base budget, since much of what we do is ongoing and the needs are persistent.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

We need a multi-pronged approach. According to estimates from the Planning Board, we are projected to lose between 7,000 and 11,000 affordable units by 2030. We also have tens of 1000s of residents (somewhere around 30,000 at least) who are rent-burdened - paying too large of a portion of their income for housing. It is projected that about 30,000 new households that are coming here will need affordable housing. It is clear we need strategies that focus on the protection of tenants, preservation of communities, and the production of housing. We also need to focus on preserving naturally existing occurring affordable housing. We are doing that using the housing fund to purchase units that would otherwise be lost and make them long-term regulated affordable. In fact, my most recent budget that the County Council passed provides record funding for the affordable housing fund - 2 1/2 times more than before. We need to also consider rent stabilization for older units that don't have affordable units (also known as MPDUs (Moderately Priced Dwelling Units). We also need a "no net loss" policy (new construction would be required to replace existing units as a baseline), and we need to use county-owned land to achieve these goals in order to get a big "bang for the buck". We have already negotiated 4 projects that leverage county-owned land to produce more affordable housing and at a deeper level of affordability. Three of those projects will also offer opportunities for homeownership for low-income families; homeownership is important for wealth building, one of the factors exacerbating inequities. We've also put out 18 county-owned sites for possible development of affordable housing - <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS/OPD/AffordableHousing.html>

### **How would you address the security**

### **concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

We have provided grants to nonprofit and faith organizations to improve security and deter hate crimes. We provided \$700,000 to 61 different organizations and have budgeted \$800,000 for the coming year. I made sure these initiatives continue to be funded in the most recent budget. Especially noteworthy is that these funds can be used for operating expenses, which are difficult to fund. Additionally, I will continue the programs by our Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Police that provide classes, assessments, and training specifically designed for nonprofit and faith-based facilities. Some of the training includes Securing Houses of Worship, Civilian Response to Active Shooter, and security assessments and training drills. I have been concerned by the increasing acts of hate and we will stand with our nonprofit and faith partners to help them feel secure in their buildings and in our county.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

We need to aggressively address climate change, which is why I - along with community members, staff, and outside experts, developed the comprehensive Climate Action Plan ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/climate](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/climate)). This plan includes short, intermediate, and long-term steps to address climate change. We have begun and need to amp up our efforts to electrify our vehicle fleet. This includes buses as well as public safety and other county vehicles. I was pleased to help the school system begin a path to bus electrification, which is good news for the environment and for the air children breathe in and around buses. We also need to expand solar, especially in the built environment - on rooftops, parking lots, and other non-green sites. We are in the process of putting two solar projects on the closed Oaks Landfill. We have installed microgrids at the Public Safety Headquarters and the Montgomery County Correctional Facility - they generate cleaner energy onsite. We are also completing a Smart Energy Bus Depot, an integrated microgrid, and electric bus charging project; it will be used to charge the county's growing fleet of electric buses. We are also planning a project at the Scotland Recreation Center and a net-zero project at the Holiday Park Senior Center. We need to do more community solar for low and moderate-income households similar to the one we launched last year with the Green Bank. We've also begun a buying co-op to help individuals and businesses purchase electric vehicles. We are working to implement legislation and regulations that my staff and I drafted and the Council approved that improve energy standards for new and existing buildings. As part of that effort, we are working to support smaller building owners in their efforts to use cleaner energy. We need to maximize clean energy production and purchase, which will be helped by Community Choice Energy. At the same time, we need to expand our efforts at increased recycling, including composting. We also need to expand our efforts at tree preservation and tree planting; tree cover is an important part of alleviating climate change.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

The decision to have an abortion should be between a woman and her health provider. I am very concerned about the possible overturning of Roe v Wade and the mean-spirited legislation in multiple states to restrict women's right to choose. That is why I supported state legislation to expand certification of and training for additional providers to provide abortion services. That is also why I have committed \$1 million to ensure access to abortion, family planning, and reproductive and maternal health providers in Montgomery County. In this time when women's right to choose is so seriously under attack, I wanted to help protect access - these funds are to help ensure that any woman who needs assistance will be able to access it.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I support increasing operating dollars for nonprofits - as I said in an earlier answer - nonprofits are invaluable partners and extend our reach into communities. The budget just approved by the Council increases funding for nonprofits by 8%, which is especially important after tight budget years and rising inflation. Also, during my time as County Executive, I have moved funding for nonprofits into departmental "base budgets", so that funding is more predictable from year to year.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding - specifically operating dollars for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

In the budget that I recommended and the Council passed, I increased funding for operating dollars for security for nonprofits and faith organizations by 14%,

going from \$700,000 last year to \$800,000 this year. I expect this to grow. Acts of hatred and violence have been on the rise and I know that people are concerned - we will continue to stand with our nonprofit and faith partners to help them feel secure in their buildings and in our county.

## Peter James

Did not submit a response.

## Hans Riemer



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

This county deserves leadership that gets it. It's not just about executive or political experience - even though I have both. I founded a nonprofit organization, ran successful national campaigns to defend Social Security from privatization, served as Barack Obama's youth director, and have served as a county-wide councilmember for 12 years. We need leadership that shares the experience of trying to raise kids here during COVID, that wonders how grandparents can afford living here, that worries about whether there will be enough jobs and housing to provide a future for the middle class, that worries both about keeping us safe from crime and racist violence and also respected by police. Leadership that has been on the ground level in every community working to make a difference and that knows the nuances and challenges our whole county is facing -- so that we can make Montgomery County work for all of us, not just some of us. That's the experience that I bring to this job.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

I am running for County Executive because Montgomery County needs progressive leadership that is effective and forward thinking. As a Democrat, I believe passionately in creating affordable housing, improving schools, and tackling climate. Marc Elrich however kept bars open when schools were closed, opposed allowing farmers to install solar, and opposed Accessory Dwelling Units that can improve housing opportunities, to choose a few examples. We can do better. For the past 12 years I have served as your county-wide Councilmember, providing me with deep experience and relationships with all of our communities. As your executive, I will have the vision and know-how to deliver on progressive change. As County Executive, 3 things I want to accomplish include: 1. Get Montgomery County's private sector growing again -- we have fewer private sector jobs today than we did 10 years ago! 2. Meet our targets for affordable housing and new housing -- we are not meeting demand and that is creating an affordability crisis! 3. Close the learning gaps that widened during COVID and raise educational outcomes for all children in our County!

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance

### the need for public safety and police reform?

Fighting crime and reforming how we do police work are complementary goals not conflicting goals. When communities lack trust in police then they do not report tips that police need to prevent or solve crime. When communities lack trust in police they do not feel safe, which is a goal of public safety. My public safety strategy relies on proven, data-driven strategies to fight crime such as strengthening police management, prioritizing investigations, and investing in prevention. Many studies show that the skill and tenure of police management has a big impact on crime levels in a community. Our county executive has weakened police management by failing to pay managers adequately and not siding with management on needed reforms opposed by the police union. There are important areas where we can substitute a police response for a health response. For example, homelessness. We also need to revolutionize our effectiveness with people who are experiencing mental health crises. Police involved shooting deaths in recent years have involved many people who were experiencing an episode. There is much that we can improve to be able to prevent these tragedies from happening, starting with raising the training of our department to be able to recognize and de-escalate those incidents.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

Nonprofits reach where County government cannot. An effective government partners with nonprofits in order to deepen services, reach the entire community, and meet our needs more nimbly, with more cultural competence and greater cost-effectiveness. The County needs to support innovation in our nonprofit sector while also providing predictable support for work that the County government knows it needs to achieve. Great examples include transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, housing for people with developmental disabilities, food security, after school programming, therapy, and more. I am a strong supporter of nonprofit funding and have acted repeatedly as a Councilmember to increase funding for our nonprofits. Just this year, I joined my colleagues to raise the annual increase in contracts to 8% after the County Executive underfunded those increases following several years of flat funding during COVID. As a former nonprofit founder and executive and as a community leader, I believe deeply in the work that our nonprofits do and I know that they need county support for operating dollars that are flexible and allow the nonprofits to spend less time fundraising and more time delivering services.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

We have a housing shortage in Montgomery County! Our community is becoming less affordable. I want all of our kids and grandparents to have the option

to live here. I want our workforce to be able to live here. That's why for 12 years on the Council I have championed affordable housing, leading the Council to add \$100 million for affordable housing production and legalize Accessory Dwelling Units, for example. Elrich, however, has been fighting against new housing. He opposed the regional housing plan to add 40,000 new units here. He voted against housing near the Purple Line and the Red Line. He opposed Accessory Dwelling Units (basement apartments and backyard cottages). He vetoed legislation to reduce taxes on new housing. He even cut down payment assistance funding for working families and tried to move that money over to only benefit county employees. As County Executive, I'll focus future growth in our major transportation corridors to increase affordable housing, providing urban amenities while preserving the suburban and rural lifestyles our residents enjoy. I'll get housing production up to meet demand and reduce pressure on prices. I'll work to ensure that our middle class has a future in this County.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

First we must be loud and vigilant about antisemitism. We must stamp it out wherever it rears. We must educate our children about antisemitism and change the culture that engages in stereotypes and jokes that only weaken resistance to hatred and violence. Houses of worship, schools, and all settings that attackers have targeted in our community must be safe. If there are threats, police must respond swiftly and effectively. Our residents must be free to worship without fear. I was proud to help provide funding for security enhancements for our faith-based institutions and I will continue to prioritize that as County Executive. I will also speak out against antisemitism wherever we encounter it, as I have done as a Councilmember. You will not have to ask me to speak out against antisemitism -- I will have already done it because that is what our community needs from our leaders.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

As County Executive, my top three climate priorities are: 1. Clean energy and electrification: Execute on a roadmap to generate enough clean energy locally to meet our community's participation goals for a 50% and 100% renewable energy grid, per the Clean Energy Jobs Act. I will send proposed zoning changes to the council to achieve those goals as well as financing/funding plans to support solar generation with homeowners, commercial property owners, farmers, and others. I will bring in national experts and build local coalitions. I will campaign with community advocates and we will fight for real change, not work groups and dialogue. 2. Curbside Composting Countywide: I will immediately resolve barriers to creating a county composting facility, either siting that facility on property we own or purchasing new land. I will rapidly execute contracts to begin collecting curbside and will scale it up to a mandatory program as quickly as possible. 3. Smart

Growth and Transit: I will build Bus Rapid Transit on Route 355 in order to create the smart growth spine of a great city on Rockville Pike, enabling us to locate future housing growth and jobs where they can have the greatest impact. I will build Route 29 BRT and Veirs Mill BRT, which I have been working towards steadily for years. I will plan out and finance housing in the Purple Line corridor to maximize development while preserving affordability there. I will move forward aggressively to boost the Red Line corridors and take advantage of the tax incentive for Metro property development. I will help bring thousands of housing units to the most transit-accessible locations we have in the entire County, meeting our housing goals and reducing pressure for exurban sprawl.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

With the right to a safe abortion under attack across the country, Montgomery County can be a national leader in expanding and protecting access to safe abortions. I support a constitutional amendment in Maryland to strengthen abortion rights. And I believe that we need to be proactive in ensuring that anyone who travels to MD to receive an abortion can do so. When Montgomery County's abortion clinic was under attack by protesters, I worked with the County Police Department and with advocates, led by my friend Kim Gandy, to ensure that the County's response was effective and upheld the right for patients to access the clinic. And I'll continue doing the work to ensure that anyone, both from Montgomery County and elsewhere, is able to access reproductive healthcare without fearing for their safety.

### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

Consistent with my comments above, I am a strong supporter of nonprofit funding and have acted repeatedly as a Councilmember to increase funding for our nonprofits. Just this year, I joined my colleagues to raise the annual increase in contracts to 8% after the County Executive underfunded those increases following several years of flat funding. As a former nonprofit founder and executive and as a community leader, I believe deeply in the work that our nonprofits do and I know that they need county support for operating dollars that are flexible and allow the nonprofits to spend less time with fundraising and more time delivering services.

### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

Consistent with my comments above, houses of worship, schools, and all settings that attackers have targeted in our community must be safe. If there are threats, police must respond swiftly and effectively. Our residents must be free to worship without fear. I was proud to help provide funding for security enhancements for our faith-based institutions and I will continue to prioritize that as County Executive. I am ready to discuss operating dollars for specific security needs for any community group that is threatened by violence

## Candidates For County Council At Large - Democratic

### Gabe Albornoz



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Since 2018, I have served our county's 1.1 million residents as an At-Large member of the Montgomery County Council. My time as Recreation Director in former County Executive Leggett's administration enabled me to quickly step into leadership roles as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, and now as Council President. I have dedicated over 23 years to advocating for youth, seniors, and other vulnerable residents. Early in my career, I directed city wide immunization campaigns at the Children's National Hospital and started the Gang Intervention Partnership at the Latin American Youth Center. I am a former student of MCPS, MBA graduate, Leadership Montgomery alumnus, and the son of Latino immigrants. I am proud of my service record and believe we need trusted and experienced leadership to move the County forward.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Montgomery County is at a crossroads. We need trusted

leaders to take a holistic approach in moving our county forward. My priorities are: 1) Decrease public health inequities that were exacerbated by the pandemic; 2) I would like to work on eliminating childhood hunger in Montgomery County; 3) Create a more connected, economically prosperous, equitable, healthier and safer community for all residents. I believe we all succeed, when we all succeed.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I believe that we can and must balance the need for a transparent and accountable police force, with the recognition that these are immensely difficult job and our police force is critical to ensuring public safety. I have supported both legislation that enhances police accountability and the establishment of the Police Accountability Board. I also led efforts to establish more crisis response teams, which are a partnership between our Health and Human Services and Police Departments. These units jointly respond to mental health distress calls. I have also introduced legislation to provide first responders with a housing tax credit and supported the new labor agreement which ensures that our incoming officers are once again competitively compensated. We must address the recruitment and retention challenges. Currently over 60% of our police department is eligible for retirement.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

I have a strong record supporting county funds for partnerships with nonprofits. I have voted for millions of dollars to support scores of county nonprofits as these partnerships are essential to the County's abilities to provide social services and support. Before entering government, I worked for Montgomery County nonprofits, most notably the Latin American Youth Center where I advocated for our youth and children for four years as Deputy Director. I know firsthand how hard our nonprofits work and how essential they are to solving the needs of the community. During the pandemic, the County Council granted millions of dollars to nonprofits to help carry out the fight against Covid-19. For example, through the Food Access Grant Program we awarded \$1.2 million to 38 community groups to combat food insecurity. I spearheaded funding for a mobile pediatric unit that would take basic medical care and vaccines to children and families struggling to access medical services. These are just a few examples, but they show how non-profits and local government function best as a team. I'm excited to build these partnerships in my next term.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

Affordable housing for people of all economic means is essential to future economic growth for Montgomery County and to maintaining our tradition as a just and inclusive community. Sadly, some of those hit hardest

by the pandemic were those who have dedicated their careers to serving it. I fought for legislation that provides tax credits to our first responders, making sure they can afford to live in the community they serve. I have also fought to increase wages to levels competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. I also co-sponsored a tax credit for the elderly surviving spouses of military personnel so that the families of our veterans have peace in their retirement. This year, I supported a record \$190 million in our Capital and Operating budgets to both preserve and build affordable housing while also providing continued support for rental assistance while our County recovers from the effects of the pandemic. Our capital budget provides a total of \$83 million in FY23 to acquire and preserve affordable housing, including \$40 million for the Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation program to protect existing affordable housing in high-growth, transit-oriented corridors. In addition, the Council approved \$50 million of Housing Production Fund (HPF) bonds for the Housing Opportunity Commission (HOC) to fund new construction of affordable housing, as well as allocating more than \$57 million in our Housing Initiative Fund (HIF) operating budget. This budget provides funds to preserve and build affordable housing and support rental assistance programs for low-income families and those moving from homelessness to permanent housing.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

The very fact that this question is asked is heartbreaking.



I have and will continue to support funding for security in places of worship, especially those disproportionately at risk. To address this issue, the County Council will have to work closely with non-profits, communities of worship, and faith organizations to strategize how best to meet their needs. Last year I supported \$700,000 in grant awards to nonprofits for work deterring hate crimes and bolstering their security needs, and this year we announced the 61 recipients of those funds. I support expanding programs like this as well as other creative programs to address this need. Hate and intolerance has no place in our community, especially in our places of worship. I'm proud to have grown up in a County that prides itself on having residents with diversity of belief but a common understanding of our shared humanity. I am committed to making sure that tradition continues.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The past several years, and especially the past few months, our residents have felt the brunt of climate change right here in our County. In particular, we have experienced record flooding, and in one tragic case a young man lost his life to a flash flood. I worked so that the Council's latest budget increased funding to the Department of Environmental Protection by 116%. This includes initiatives to boost clean energy, energy conservation programs, and climate education. Additionally, I pushed for \$20 million for the Montgomery County Green Bank, which will grow into \$100 million in the future. This is the most ambitious climate investment in the County's history. I've also ensured that the County has funds allocated to build a zero-emissions bus fleet, the first of its kind in the nation, to help our County reach its Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals. Moreover, looking at the process of government holistically, I spearheaded a bill that will require future County Council legislation to undergo a climate impact assessment by the Office of legislative oversight. This will ensure that with every bill we pass, the Council is weighing potential impact on Montgomery County's climate and how what we do today will impact the world our children will have to live in.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I support a woman's right to choose and make decisions about their reproductive health, both with respect to birth control and abortion. I also believe it is imperative that women have access to reproductive health procedures and that they are affordable for all our residents.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I have voted to increase operating funds for nonprofits each year that I have been on the County Council. My role as Chair of HHS committee gives me the opportunity to strongly advocate for these increases. Under my leadership, the recently approved operating budget contains an unprecedented 8% adjustment for County funded nonprofits. I will work on providing more support in future budgets.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

As shared above, I have supported funding for security in the past and will support additional resources if necessary to assure that our faith communities can worship safely.

**Brandy Brooks**

Did not submit a response.

**Dana Gassaway**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am this best person for the position of County Council At-Large because of my long standing in the County; my family has been in the county for at least three hundred years and I have family in just about every part. I understand

where we have come and where we need to be in this county. I look at this county as the place where my American roots began and I desire to return the county to the beauty it was in my youth, and to make this county a place of equality, fairness, compassion and justice for all!

**What are 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

End Hunger in the county, create quality health care for all residents, and reformation of the county's justice system.

**How will you use the Office of Attorney General to combat hate crimes and antisemitism and promote public safety?**

I advocate the creation of a civilian police review board apart from the police that review questionable police practices.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I am in favor of this in most cases but I believe the resources are lacking in some instances.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

This is a great question and is a serious problem in our county; unfortunately, the run to overdevelop the county has left us with almost 85% of our useable land used. I have proposed a program that would use land like shopping malls and other places to create additional living space while placing shopping below ground. Additionally, we have to create a program that will help our teachers and other public servants to live and work in our county.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

As a long time resident of the county who's family came to this county as slaves, I understand the reality of hate and how it can hold people in fear and disrupt lives. I believe the secret is to make it clear that these types of hate crimes are never to be allowed. If needed, I will champion any legislation that will protect all our residents.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

There is so much that should be done including CO2 recovery technology, creation of more green space through reclamation of land, and conversion of our local power to solar energy. I have prosed that we convert 15% of our electric consumption from traditional power to solar power by 2033. Additionally, I am in favor of reclaiming .2 percent of an acre of land in each district every year for a determined period of time.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

As a man and as a person who believes in the sanctity of life, I want to say I feel for all life, but as a person who knows that a women has to make her own choice on that subject and that I pledge to protect that choice.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I am in favor of the implementation of better monitoring of funds given to these agencies, and, if the need is documented that more funding will help more people, then more funds should be given.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I think this is a situational issue that needs to be supported through better information on the climate that is causing the threat, but in general I support the safety of all residents.

**Evan Glass**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I'm proud of our work to make our community a more fair, equitable and welcoming place for everyone -- regardless of race, religion or nation of origin. From passing pay equity legislation and supporting public transportation,

to protecting our environment and encouraging new businesses to settle here, I've been working hard to make Montgomery County an even better place to live, work and play. As a former CNN journalist, I always seek community input and share important information with residents. Communication is key. Ensuring oversight and accountability in our local government is also extremely important to me. I have the honor of currently serving as Vice President of the Council. My colleagues elected me to this position because of my ability to work with diverse stakeholders and find common ground. The next Council will grow from nine members to eleven, bringing more diversity of thoughts and opinions, and I am well prepared to unite so we can better serve the residents of Montgomery County.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Tackling the climate crisis
2. Improving public transit
3. Expanding economic opportunity

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Every resident deserves to feel safe in their community. The best way to ensure community safety is by having a modern model of community policing. We need to hire more officers who are from our community and familiar with the unique needs and challenges across our diverse region. That is why I successfully added funding in the FY23 budget to increase the Montgomery County Police Department's Cadet Program. This program provides a pathway for college students in Montgomery County to join our police force and provide for the safety and well being of the communities where they grew up. In addition to this, I have been a strong advocate for providing mental health support and healthcare crisis teams to assist MCPD officers when responding to emergencies, understanding that many incidents are committed by individuals experiencing mental duress and need additional assistance.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

As a former nonprofit executive, I strongly support partnerships between county government and nonprofit organizations. Government can't provide services on our own, and thankfully Montgomery County has the best nonprofit sector in the nation. But in order for our social safety providers to do their best work, county government needs to provide additional support and streamline our processes - from grant making and contracting to reporting. I'm committed to supporting our nonprofit community and helping them unlock their fullest potential.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Every year Montgomery County is becoming an even more expensive place to live. It is getting harder for retirees to age in place, and home ownership for our kids and grandkids is quickly becoming out of reach. We need to ensure that we are building more housing at all income levels, especially the deeply affordable levels, in order to keep pace with the projected population increases. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that doesn't build walls around our borders. And in order to match those values, we need to build more housing so individuals who grew up here can move back home, for our county workers to live in the county they serve, and for those around the world to move here and share their knowledge and talent.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

As a proud Jew, I have been working alongside JCRC, ADL and faith organizations across the county to ensure that residents are safe and protected when they worship. I am proud that Montgomery County is the only local jurisdiction in the country that provides security grants for faith-based organizations, which is a testament to our shared commitment to religious freedom. I am also proud to have convened roundtable discussions at the Council with JCRC, ADL and the American Jewish Committee to discuss the unnerving situation and how county government can best provide support. I am dedicated to everyone's ability to pray safely in our community.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Tackling the climate crisis is among my highest priorities. In Montgomery County, we have committed ourselves to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% within the decade and achieving 100% reductions by 2035. To ensure a greener, cleaner future for our children and grandchildren, I have strongly supported stricter greener building standards, enhancing transit service, and increasing food composting programs. We must also continue to green our energy grid and place solar panels where we are able.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I strongly believe in an individual's right to reproductive freedom. As the first openly LGBTQ+ member of the Council, I staunchly support religious liberty and self determination for everyone.

**What is your position on increasing more**

**operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

Montgomery County has an incredibly strong and talented nonprofit sector. I'm pleased that the Council was able to provide nonprofits with an 8% rate adjustment in our recently approved FY23 budget. These funds will allow organizations to provide more services to residents and need while also caring for their hardworking staff that have been on the front lines during the pandemic. In addition to increased funding, I also believe that we need to streamline and improve our processes so that nonprofits can spend more of their time providing services and less time jumping through bureaucratic hurdles.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

My Jewish faith instructs me to support all individuals who wish to worship in peace and safety. I will continue to approve county funds that are used to protect our houses of worship and nonprofit organizations. Montgomery County is home to four of the ten most diverse communities in the United States and we need to support and protect our diversity however we can.

**Scott Goldberg**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

There is nothing more powerful in American democracy than a person's vote and each of us gets to decide which candidate would represent them best. For the voter who values the ability to collaborate collegially with

everyone, no matter if they agree or disagree on an issue, believes every human being deserves respect, compassion, and dignity from their government, and who shares the value of wanting to leave this world a better place than they found it, I would represent them well.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

- 1) Establish an economic identity for the county built around Quad H: Hospitality, Healthcare, High Tech, and Hops to reverse the narrative that we are unfriendly toward businesses, which will lead to more and higher wage jobs.
- 2) Proactively address our generational housing deficiency with a comprehensive plan to expand affordable, attainable, and innovative housing options.
- 3) Collaborate with the Board of Education, communities throughout the county, education experts, teachers, parents, and students, to improve the educational outcomes in Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

It's OK to be supportive of police officers and give them adequate resources, hold them accountable to high standards, and address the root causes of crime in society all at the same time. To begin, Montgomery County has to offer competitive salary and compensation to attract and retain talented officers who want to be in policing for the right reasons. The county's leadership must set a clear vision of how we want to be policed so that every single person living here knows what is expected of our public safety officers. Any expert in law enforcement will say that to reduce crime over the long term, there needs to be robust economic opportunities. If people have good options, then they'll act rationally to get the education and training needed to high paying jobs. If those aren't available, then crime becomes a viable option as well. That's why I will focus on economic advancement as your Councilmember because it solves much more than just financial problems.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

The missions of the plethora of nonprofit organizations are core government functions. They are providing services that the county would have to if not for the invaluable function they fulfill. As a Councilmember I would continue to and increase funding for the nonprofits that the county partners with. In speaking with many nonprofit leaders, they have mentioned that at times they feel more like they are treated as a vendor by the county and not as a true partner. As with anything in this world, there is opportunity for improvement that we should take advantage of.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

As a veteran housing expert of 15 years and founder of a residential property management company, and attorney who has represented tenants in landlord-tenant court pro-bono, I have a unique insight into our housing needs. Our housing should be affordable, attainable, innovative and incorporate the following specifics: - Constructing mixed income housing on government owned land - Requiring 3 and 4-bedroom units on larger projects - Funding micro voucher rental assistance so those working aren't cost burdened - Increasing density and offering incentives for development on or adjacent to transit centers - Lower the cap on property tax increases - Work with nonprofits to increase homeownership rates among communities with historically low rates to create generational wealth If we can reduce the cost of residents' largest monthly expense, housing, we will have done good by a great many of our neighbors.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

As a member of Temple Shalom, there is a sense of comfort when we drop our children off at Hebrew School or on the High Holy Days when there is a Montgomery County Police Officer on site. With the vitriol and hate that lives even with our communities today, having officers and security personnel available for high risk occasions for all faiths is both a display that we're serious about protecting people and that we stand up to hate.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Reversing the damage that humans have done to the environment is tikkun olam. The county is already starting to maximize what it can do to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and reduce waste, and can do more such as electrifying our vehicle fleet, passing building energy performance standards (BEPS) standards, placing solar panels on all county-owned buildings, expanding composting, using our land more wisely to have more open space, eliminating gas-powered landscaping, and most important of all, enlisting all 1.1 million residents in the fight against climate change.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

On Yom Kippur, our rabbi gave a passionate sermon on how reproductive freedom and the decision of whether or not to have an abortion is a deeply Jewish value. Freedom over one's body is also a deeply American value. I will always stand for everyone having unobstructed access to complete medical care and supporting the organizations and patients financially because money should never be a consideration in healthcare, even though it is.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

For the past decade, Montgomery County has been OK with stagnant job growth and the new jobs created being low wage while the jobs leaving being high wage ones. That's why I will be intentional in improving our economic atmosphere to allow our economy to grow. If we prioritize growing our economy, we'll have more funding for the vital functions of nonprofits. The more we can allocate to our vibrant nonprofit community the better the services that we can deliver to the people who desperately need them.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Safety and security should be everything and this is a core government function. I support grants and funding for security related expenses to non-public organizations.

### **Tom Hucker**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I was unanimously elected by Councilmembers to serve as VP and then President of the Montgomery County Council to lead our County during the COVID pandemic and recession. At the end of my term as President of the

Council and Chair of the County's Board of Health, the Council won praise from Dr. Anthony Fauci for how we had managed the pandemic, won an award from an affordable housing group for our innovative programming and record investments, and won another award from the NAACP for our leadership on civil rights and police reform - marking a year of significant achievements despite incredibly difficult circumstances. The

next Council will have at least five new members, so I can play an important role as an experienced and collaborative problem-solver. My eight years of experience as a Maryland state legislator position me well to secure vital state and federal resources. I also believe I am an excellent candidate for supporters of the JCRC. I have been proud to work with leaders, including Ron Halber, for over twenty years to win reforms. I have been especially proud of my work this term with the JCRC. As Vice President and President of the Council, we partnered together to advocate for JCRC members to have the support they needed to address mental health, transportation, and other community issues. We also stood together against hate crimes to make sure Montgomery County continues to be a welcoming community for all, and we passed and later increased funding for security grants to protect people of faith. Lastly, I was proud of my work as Council President last year to work with JCRC to change the proposed Council district lines in order to keep the Kemp Mill community together and to ensure that their voices were not diluted.

#### **What are 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

My top three priorities on the Council are schools, jobs, and housing using a racial equity lens. We must ensure that MCPS has equitable opportunities for all students including pathways to living wage jobs, that we make the County the economic engine of the state again, and that we build enough affordable housing so everyone from young families to seniors can call Montgomery County home. 1.) Excellent public schools are the foundation of our county - a moral imperative, the lifeblood of our economy, the #1 reason people move to Montgomery County, and specifically, our strongest attraction for the best and brightest talents that the federal government and the private sector need to recruit from across the country and the globe. Ensuring sustained, robust and strategic investment in public education - as well as the services that support it - is my number one priority. 2.) The Council ratified a comprehensive economic roadmap-the 2021-2025 Economic Development Strategic Plan. We trail other local jurisdictions in job growth. Small businesses create most of our jobs, so we must support them by streamlining regulations, expediting permits and increasing financing. We must build the conditions businesses and their employees want—affordable and accessible communities. 3.) Safe, affordable housing is part of the American Dream. The County & 23 other local govts declared a housing crisis & pledged to build 4100 homes/yr, 75% of which are affordable. We must invest more to build more units (as DC is), use our limited resources to leverage private funds, & work with affordable housing providers to reach our goals. We also much preserve our existing affordable housing.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

First, as a member of the Council's Public Safety Committee, I know prevention reduces the need for policing and costs less. Strategic interventions are key to preventing crime. 40% of our police calls are mental health-related, so we must prioritize an equitable, community-centered response model to crisis intervention by involving mental health professionals and social workers. Specifically, I've fought to fund mobile crisis units so that we have trained social workers to respond to our residents who are experiencing mental health crises, not just armed police officers. I not only sponsored the special appropriation to create our Mobile Crisis Teams, I also worked closely with the Administration to review best practices and even interview practitioners from around the nation to develop a model that will work here. We are creating an embedded crisis unit within each police district to run calls with police officers and help train them on how to respond to crisis situations. Second, for many years, we have had persistent vacancies in our police department. We have needed to address staffing shortages by raising starting officer pay, which until recently was 10th-lowest of 12 neighboring jurisdictions in our region. In the FY23 budget that we passed last week, we significantly increased pay for police to finally achieve parity with our competitor jurisdictions. Third, I support expanding the State's Attorney's Truancy Prevention Program and the County's Street Outreach Network to put it on par with the DC version of the same program, which has approximately 40 staff members and diverts many youth from police involvement. I support funding for after school programming, positive youth development and other youth engagement or programming that keeps them out of trouble; these are all things that can make the difficult jobs of our police easier now and in the future

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I have been proud to champion significant resources dedicated to nonprofits, including those that are affil-

iated with JCRC. Your collective work is truly remarkable and I commend you for everything that you do for our community. Before serving as a District 20 State Delegate, I served our community as a nonprofit executive. I know firsthand what it takes to run a successful nonprofit—balancing a budget, hiring and retaining staff and volunteers, and doing everything possible to deliver services even when needs outmatch resources. Serving as Vice President and President of the County Council during this pandemic has only strengthened my strong views about the importance of our nonprofit partners to our community. Montgomery County simply could not have responded successfully to the pandemic without our public sector partners, staff and volunteers. Nonprofits provided so many essential services including mental health support, hosted food drives and fundraisers, organized testing and vaccination appointments, offered medical treatment, and so much more. I was proud to work with JCRC, Nonprofit Montgomery and other groups to host webinars, share information, and connect nonprofits with critical information and grants during the pandemic. We continue to have challenges, but I know that by working together we will continue to do so much good together. I believe in our nonprofits to my core and that is why I fight so hard for our nonprofits to receive the resources, coordination and support that they deserve.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Safe, affordable housing is part of the American Dream. The County & 23 other local govts declared a housing crisis & pledged to build 4,100 homes/yr, 75% of which are affordable. We must invest more to build more units (as DC is), use our limited resources to leverage private funds, & work with affordable housing providers to reach our goals. We also much preserve our existing affordable housing. I have been a vocal supporter for the new General Plan for Montgomery County which will expand affordable housing opportunities, along with helping us reach our climate goals, expand pedestrian and cyclist safety, encourage development closest to public transit and more. The cost of living in Montgomery County is also a huge disincentive for teachers, firefighters, police, nonprofit workers and many other professionals who provide critical services. We should consider a property tax credit for public service workers who live in the county. I am currently sponsoring a property tax credit for first responders, which was authorized by recent changes in state law. That law could be expanded to cover educators and others as well. This would have a multitude of benefits, helping us to meet our climate goals, reducing commuting time for teachers in their already tight schedules, and helping MCPS with teacher recruitment and retention as the credit could be continued for continuing employment.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

Crimes of racism, hate, harassment and intimidation have been tragically on the rise. These incidents are meant to break spirits and instill fear. No one should be afraid to go to school, practice their faith or hold the hands of the person they love. No one should be forced to look over their shoulder because of how they look or the language they speak. This behavior is wrong and illegal, and cannot be rationalized or excused. But this isn't just about our laws - this is about who we are as a people. I've joined my colleagues and the community in standing together to denounce acts of hate and division whether they happen here or across our country. I will continue to do everything in my power to make every current resident and every new immigrant feel safe here regardless of their race, ethnicity, creed, disability or sexual identity. I have eagerly supported funding of security grants for local synagogues and houses of worship and you can continue to count on me to take swift and impactful action to address any new and ongoing security concerns brought to the county by our faith communities.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

As the Chair of the County's Transportation & Environment Committee, I've helped lead our County's efforts on this issue for years, which is one reason I've been endorsed by the Sierra Club to return to the Council. I led the efforts on the Council to fund the Climate Action Plan, and am now working to implement it through legislation, budget commitments and oversight of the executive branch. We must reduce carbon pollution from buildings and transportation. I led the I sponsored the successful Green Buildings Now Act -- by far the largest climate investment in

county history -- to provide tens of millions of dollars each year to retrofit our buildings and create thousands of green jobs. I also just passed through my committee the Building Energy Performance Standards law that will increase our benchmarking of building energy use and push building owners to take advantage of the funding made available by the Green Buildings Now Act to make meaningful energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in reducing their carbon emissions and their energy bills. Making sure those two bills are implemented expeditiously will be a big focus of our committee in the new Council if I am re-elected. Land use and housing are also critical. We must commit to climate-friendly housing and land use policy, deeply invest in transit and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. And we must continue to electrify our bus fleet and the school bus fleet. Finally, we need to practice Transportation Demand Management - incentivizing employers to increase telework and incentivize our residents to use transit and to convert to electric vehicles. We also need to close the incinerator - the County's largest source of carbon pollution - and improve our limited food composting and recycling efforts. Finally, we have to continue our efforts to protect our county from increasingly dangerous weather events, like the fatal flooding we had this year, by deeply investing in better stormwater management.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I'm firmly pro-choice and in support of every person's right to reproductive freedom and protecting women's easy, affordable, safe access to abortions. Due to my longtime leadership on this issue, I have been endorsed by Pro-Choice Maryland Action. Everyone should have a full spectrum of safe, high quality reproductive health care options and absolute control over their bodies. I support the County's recent funding for abortion and reproductive care as well as efforts to push our state legislature to codify Roe v. Wade. I wrote to Gov. Hogan to urge him to release the funding that the Assembly provided to train health care providers in how to perform abortions safely in order to prepare our workforce for the surge of abortion seekers coming from other states. Although the County can't legislate directly on reproductive freedom, I support making room now and going forward in the County's operating budget and through strengthening the existing Montgomery Cares program partnerships to fund critical access to reproductive related health care and abortions, particularly for those who are uninsured. Via new state legislation and local funding we can and should ensure that the county and state remain places where women's health is respected and unburdened, including reproductive health and abortions.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

Nonprofit agencies are in the backbone of our County and that was on display during the height of the pandemic. Nonprofits were able to close the County's gap in reaching residents in need. While the County has a strong nonprofit sector, they need more support. Our nonprofits have built trust with hard to reach communities and are experts in their areas. That is a critical asset that the County should support. For that reason, during this budget cycle I supported the recommended 6% increase to nonprofits and the additional 4% increase that was placed on the Council's reconciliation list. In the end, the Council approved an 8% increase in funding for nonprofits. Furthermore, I supported funding for the creation of the Office of Grants Management. The office will be key to relations between the County and nonprofits, as well as a resource for locating funding outside the County and technical assistance.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding - specifically operating dollars for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Crimes of racism, hate, harassment and intimidation have been tragically on the rise. These incidents are meant to break spirits and instill fear. No one should be afraid to go to school, practice their faith or hold the hands of the person they love. No one should be forced to look over their shoulder because of how they look or the language they speak. This behavior is wrong and illegal, and cannot be rationalized or excused. But this isn't just about our laws - this is about who we are as a people. I've joined my colleagues and the community in standing together to denounce acts of hate and division whether they happen here or across our country. I will continue to do everything in my power to make every current resident and every new immigrant feel safe here regardless of their race, ethnicity, creed, disability or sexual identity. I have eagerly supported funding of security grants for local synagogues and houses of worship and you can continue to count on me to take swift and impactful action to address any new and ongoing security concerns brought to the county by our faith communities.

## Will Jawando



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am the best candidate for this position because I have the best record of any candidate: on police reform, on social justice, on education policy, on small-business issues, on housing, and on expanding public transit. I share

the experience of being a targeted person, and deeply value the relationship between our Black and Jewish communities, as a means of seeking broader social justice for all Montgomery County residents. Today I am only the second Black person elected countywide to a council seat in a county that is majority people of color. I note this because representation matters, and we must begin to unwind the institutional and systemic racism that is integrated in our government and our social structures. It is not just enough to show up. We must speak up. We need authentic voices with lived experience to represent those parts and communities that have not had a seat at the table. If re-elected I will continue to serve in a manner that bridges communities and includes those that are not always included in policy decisions and leadership – to make Montgomery County a more equitable, safe and prosperous place for all residents. I currently serve as an At Large Councilmember and have served on the Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee and the Education and Culture Committees of the Montgomery County Council. I am a civil rights lawyer and former Obama White House staff member. Raised in Silver Spring, I received my bachelors degree and law degree from Catholic University of America. I have focused on affordable housing, social justice and racial equity during my first term in office.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

My top priorities include: Increasing the number of affordable and middle income housing units in the county, addressing challenges in our education system, finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening our local economy. We have to do more to find ways to increase the amount of affordable housing available to people. Rental rates and the cost of homes for sale have soared over the last ten years. We need public policy that incentivizes the creation of as many affordable units as possible. When we have a public project we should be finding ways to include workforce and affordable housing units. We should also consider some forms of rent stabilization in key areas such as transportation corridors. Finally, we must find ways to make workforce housing – affordable home ownership and rental units for teachers, police, and healthcare workers – achievable in Montgomery County, through tools like down payment assistance to help propel homeownership. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic there were challenges in our education system. During COVID we saw these challenges and disparities laid bare. We need to help our schools, from the administration, to teachers, and students, have the tools and support to be successful. This means we need to address the opportunity gap, invest in mental health supports for our youth, and address foundational learning loss due to closures during the pandemic. Finally, we need to bring emissions from buildings under control, “green the grid” through locally-generated renewable energy such as solar, and electrify the county fleet while providing support and assistance to allow the public to do the same. Climate change is not just an environmental issue, but it is an equity issue as well. With natural disasters more frequent and more dangerous than those of the past, our most vulnerable and less affluent residents will feel the impacts the most.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

We are asking too much of our public safety professionals. What we need to do is better fund positions in HHS to manage issues like mental health emergencies. We should not use our police as a “catch all” at the end of what is a long history of issues. The county should have a framework of non-police intervention earlier to prevent situations from escalating. We have started to fund this, but this is a large and complex problem that will require greater engagement with public stakeholders, and a greater megaphone than affected community members, then we currently have in order to accomplish the goal we mutually seek. We need to invest in public education, public health and redirect the work of police to solving violent crimes and maintaining our safety. But we also need, as social justice organizers, to find and amplify the voices of those who personify the issues around policing, in order to better tell the story of “why” justice in policing is so necessary. With all the above, I also believe police and public safety officers should have a higher level of transparency and accountability.

Because we give public safety professionals the ability to take life, and take custody of and jail residents, public safety professionals should expect accountability measures and to work in greater transparency. This will be the key to building the trust that will improve relationships between law enforcement professionals and the community. What is most important here is to understand that we should invest in programs and services that deter and otherwise reverse recent national trends in crime, but we also should expect transparency and accountability from our police officers; these two concepts are not mutually exclusive.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

Nonprofits have played an incredibly important role as we have recovered and managed the COVID 19 pandemic. Simply put, nonprofits have led the way in partnerships to deliver services to our most vulnerable populations – a job our local government could not have done without that nonprofit leadership. Nonprofits provide crucial social missions that fill gaps left by the government and the commercial sector, or are outside of the scope of what the government is capable of doing. I am proud the County Council was able to increase the funding for these organizations to keep up with inflation in our most recent budget. It is vital they are supported as we work in partnership to assist our residents.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

My record is clear. I am an aggressive proponent for More Housing for More People. In fact, my More Housing for More People proposal (ZTA 20-07) is written to create more affordable and attainable housing near high-quality public transit. This will allow duplexes, triplexes, and other small multi-family housing within one mile of transit and is coupled with Bill 52-20, which would stabilize rents near transit. While we need more transit, and must make it a priority to move people out of cars and onto public transportation, we also need to both create more housing opportunities and protect existing affordable housing through rent stabilization. Frequently, I am the lone voice on the Council arguing against giveaways to developers that do not increase the amount of affordable units in new developments. We need more than affordable housing: we need a diversity of affordable housing, including multiple bedroom units for families, and greater affordability beyond MPDUs. We also need to consider workforce housing. If professionals such as teachers, police and healthcare workers cannot afford to live in our county, we are creating more separation that results in widening inequity that is detrimental to communities.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I have said for years, after every mass school shooting, that this one would be the one to make a difference. Every time, my heart breaks when I see that it is not. I don't know how the opponents to common sense challenges to hate crime, to violent crime, to race-based crime, continue to say no. Our national conscience whipsaws almost daily from hate crime to hate crime, from mass shooting to mass shooting. A White Supremacist in Buffalo shooting shoppers at a supermarket in a Black community. A teen-ager in Uvalde, Tex., who was able to buy two AR-15's on his 18th birthday with no serious background check, leading to the killing of a classroom of elementary school children. With horror like this today, our public consciousness cannot hold on to the previous horrors, such as the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. But we must remember. We must remember each life. And we must fight – at local, state and federal levels – to eliminate the possibility of guns being on the street. While we can work to bridge the cultural and human connections between communities, we will not be able to address the safety of our communities without gun control. We must institute universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons, and hold the gun industry responsible when weapons they produce harm people. Anyone who doesn't work to do this has the blood of innocents on their hands.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

First, we need to pass the Building Energy Performance Standards as soon as possible to begin to bring emissions from buildings under control. This is not without challenges as many under-resourced properties may not be able to afford to make the substantial

changes needed to fully electrify. We need to ensure revenue from compliance sanctions is used to offset the costs for buildings that provide affordable housing, and that may be unable to bring their property up to standard. Next, greening the grid through more locally-generated renewable energy. The challenge here will be creating the appropriate incentives to install solar and other clean energy, but this is an essential component of ensuring that our broader electrification efforts result in a net decrease in emissions. Finally, fully electrifying the county fleet and providing support and assistance to allow the public to do the same will be key to reducing the significant amount of emissions from vehicles on our roads. Here again, there is a particular challenge for lower-income residents who may not be able to afford to purchase a newer electric vehicle and may not have access to charging locations at or near their homes. We need to make a concerted effort to break down those obstacles preventing wider adoption of EV's so that all of our residents can take full advantage of this new technology.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

I am a pro-choice candidate – no question. Decisions related to reproductive freedom should be made between a woman and her doctor – period. For Black women, this is about more than abortions, it is about health care. For others, abortion rights are embedded in their religious freedoms. We must pass national legislation that creates a policy guaranteeing reproductive rights for all, with freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions regardless of race, class or religion. In 1973 when the Supreme Court passed Roe v. Wade, for the first time, women had the right to fully make decisions about their own bodies and their reproductive rights. Today, almost 50 years later, women are fighting for these rights all over again. In October, the Supreme Court failed to block an anti-abortion law in Texas. That, along with the Mississippi ruling that halts abortions after 15 weeks, have turned back the clock and set a precedent for similar rulings across the country. The State of Maryland has some of the strongest pro-choice laws in the nation, but in this fight we must not only defend what we have, but we must fight for more – not just for ourselves in Maryland, but for a national policy.

### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

I am proud that the County Council included more funding for nonprofit agencies in the budget passed May 26. As I noted above, nonprofits play a critical role in our ability to deliver services to our residents, especially vulnerable residents. I am proud to have helped include the increased funding, but also will continue to support the nonprofit community if re-elected to the county council.

### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

I am in favor of offering increased funding for security for nonprofits and houses of worship. Not only can we increase police presence outside and around houses of worship during services, but I also believe funding projects to make buildings and grounds safer with the use of lighting, cameras and other environmental security measures is a good investment.

## Laurie-Anne Sayles



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am the best candidate for the job because I have a plan to revitalize Montgomery County and position our County for future success. S.M.A.R.T. government is my acronym for the policy platform to revitalize

our County: \*Strengthening 21st-century learning from cradle to career \*Making a living in Montgomery County more affordable \*Advancing sustainable local food production in the Ag Reserve \*Recovering from the pandemic while revitalizing the economy \*Tackling climate change through multi-modal transportation solution

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Help Montgomery County equitably recover from the pandemic, making a living in Montgomery County more affordable and strengthening our educational system from cradle to career.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

Increase opportunities to convene our public safety officers and community stakeholders in their districts to hear their comments, suggestions, and ideas on

improving the relationship between the police and our communities. Council hearings are one way to build bridges between the council and the community while trying to balance public safety and reform through policymaking. Still, some residents cannot attend public hearings in Council chambers, and these voices are essential to fostering safe communities. We also need police for public safety and police reform to establish standards and measure the effectiveness of police policy, especially in communities that have been historically underinvested. Building safe communities must be a joint effort. We need effective dialogue between the police and the community. We need police officers to live in the communities they police and serve.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

I have a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in nonprofit management and spent a good part of my career working with nonprofits like the Nature Conservancy and MCAEL. I believe nonprofits need to fill the gaps in service delivery that government cannot provide to address public support for nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County. I think that partnerships with nonprofits in Montgomery County would improve the lives of so many marginalized Montgomery County residents. Nonprofits have been and continue to be an important and influential voice for the residents who do not have time to appear at Council hearings or otherwise advocate for themselves. The key is getting elected officials to work together with nonprofits effectively. I have years of experience working with nonprofits professionally and as a lawmaker and will ensure they are true partners in making our community whole when I'm on the Council.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

Providing affordable housing is a fundamental part of my policy platform because I know firsthand the importance of finding safe, affordable housing when you're struggling to make ends meet. I had two years remaining to complete my degree at the University of Maryland, College Park, when my daughter attended Rockville's Luxmanor Elementary School. I worked as a Certified Pharmacy Technician, making just above minimum wage, but certainly not enough to afford market-rate housing when I saved up enough money to move out of my parents' home. Luckily, Montgomery County's Moderately Priced Housing Law (MPDU program), enacted in 1974, requiring all new developments in the county with 20 or more units to include a certain percentage of affordable units, enabled me to secure a safe and affordable starter home to realize our most significant potential. I am committed to making Montgomery County an attractive and affordable place to call home by: \*Promoting housing policies like down payment assistance programs that center on upward mobility by incentivizing homeownership pathways. \*Supporting residential projects that create more housing options in our county, prioritizing housing near jobs and transit while helping us meet our regional goals for an additional 10,000 units by 2030. \*Fully funding the rental assistance program to help working families, developmentally disabled adults, and seniors avoid eviction and homelessness. \*Championing the other “Fight for 15%” to increase the set-aside floor for MPDUs to match the City of Gaithersburg's affordable housing policy to ensure new residential projects provide more affordable housing units

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I would work with our Office of Interfaith Partnerships to convene with synagogues and local houses of worship and faith-based organizations to understand their concerns and identify specific security measures they have in place so that we can collaborate to allocate resources to develop more effective safety plans.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

We are in a climate crisis. As a public health professional and transportation advocate, I will be a fierce advocate for tackling climate change through equitable transportation infrastructure solutions. My priorities for our county include: We create safe and complete streets for our drivers and pedestrians to enhance connectivity between our neighborhoods and business corridors. She conducted a feasibility study to better allocate adequate funding for existing and planned transportation improvement projects to combat transit deserts. We invest in green infrastructures like

cycling and intelligent traffic signals and converting to a greener bus fleet to reduce traffic pollution and improve residents' daily lives. Ensuring efficient and equitable completion of transportation projects like the FLASH, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the Purple Line, and the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) is crucial to the economic growth of the biotech corridor in Montgomery County and an exciting opportunity for inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

As a mother raising a daughter, the present attack on women and Roe v. Wade is appalling. There is an immediate need to have women on the front lines fighting against this attack on women's rights. Women should have reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions. We need more women elected officials to help codify this fundamental liberty to have agency over the decision we make about our bodies.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

Nonprofits have been providing life-saving services to our communities in better ways than the government. Therefore, I am supportive of increasing operating dollars for nonprofit agencies.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

In light of the numerous attacks on nonprofits and houses of worship, increased security is necessary, and I will find the resources required to keep our places of worship as safe as possible.

**DISTRICT 2 – DEMOCRATIC**

**Marilyn Balcombe**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I have been working for my community for almost 30 years. I have a complete understanding of the job of County Councilmember. And I know that I have the knowledge, skill, and ability to do the job. My track record speaks for itself.

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, with over 35 years of experience in budget and finance.
- PhD in Organizational Psychology. I know how an effective organization should operate.
- As President & CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, I work with businesses every day and know how to help them grow to bring more jobs to this area.
- I've worked on projects large and small, from opening BlackRock Center for the Arts and securing funding for the Watkins Mill Interchange on I-270, to getting a much-needed stop sign put up in a neighborhood.
- I've helped secure funding for schools, libraries, fire stations, roads, and parks.
- I've worked with many nonprofits throughout the County and have helped them meet their mission of serving our community.
- I've also volunteered with the PTA, my homeowners association, cross-country mom, Germantown Oktoberfest, Germantown HELP, etc.
- I thoroughly understand master plans, land use, transportation, economic and workforce development.
- I am a problem solver, strategic thinker, and well-respected in our community for building coalitions, listening to people, and getting things done.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Strengthen our Economy. We need more high paying jobs. Not only to support our residents, but to support the tax base. As we continue to grow, our needs are growing exponentially. To sustain our quality of life, we need a robust economy and tax base. • Provide access to the resources residents and local businesses need to recover from the pandemic. • Reclaim Montgomery County's preeminence in the BioTech Industry. • Increase attraction and retention efforts to bring more businesses and jobs to the Upcounty. • Foster a climate where entrepreneurs can create, thrive, and scale their businesses here in Montgomery County. • Ensure that we have a workforce that is ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

2. Housing affordability and transportation. We need the next generation to be able to live in the community they grew up in. We need our first responders, health care workers, and teachers to be able to live in our community. If we don't have affordable housing close to jobs, we need a more effective transportation infrastructure. • Provide sustainable housing options for all our residents. • Support transit-oriented, mixed-use development for future growth. • Invest in transportation

projects - both roads and transit - that will yield both short and long-term relief.

3. We also need significant investment in early care and education to help close the achievement gap. We need to provide early care support for the workforce of today and early education to prepare the workforce of tomorrow. • Create and fund a coordinating entity for all ECE services in the County. • Work with the Child-care Industry to ensure adequate number of individual providers. • Reconsider the economic model of child care which does not work for families on the lower end of the economic spectrum.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

As this is not my area of expertise, I would rely on the leaders from our synagogues, houses of worship and faith-based agencies who they need to feel safe. I support the County Council's recent funding for additional security costs and would continue that funding. Public safety for all our residents is a high priority and I would support the necessary funding and policies to ensure safety.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I have a long history of working with nonprofit organizations - on staff, on the board, and as a volunteer. I currently sit on the Board of several nonprofits. I know that nonprofit organizations provide necessary services to our community and that they most often provide services much more efficiently than the County or State. It is more cost effective for the County to support and/or partner with nonprofit organizations than it would be to take on the services being provided.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

We need more housing at all price points for all income levels. We need more support for first time home buyers, as well as support to keep families in their homes. I would work with the various agencies already doing this work and ask their views on how to best support residents with housing insecurities.

We do need to address the fact that critical members of our community - teachers, first responders, young workers - can't afford to live in the County. We need to look at all options such as • property tax exemptions • low interest loans. • increase county funding for first-time homebuyers to help alleviate the initial burden of buying a home. • There are also federal and state programs that could help first time homebuyers. • Increased funding for non-profit agencies that supply affordable units like Montgomery Housing Partnership

To really reduce the cost of home ownership, we need to look at the cost of producing residential housing. The County has conflicting priorities of taxing residential construction and the sale of homes as a revenue source vs. providing more attainable housing for residents with low to moderate means. We can either reduce the cost, and ultimately the price of housing or provide subsidies to encourage/promote homeownership or find other ways to provide affordable housing. In terms of helping individuals get into the housing market, there are already a number of programs in place to help qualified home buyers purchase homes. I support an increase in county and state funded programs including existing mortgage programs and tax credit programs. I support a pre-tax savings program for first-time homeowners save for their initial down payment. I fully support the use of county-owned land to expand housing, particularly affordable / workforce housing. Transit-oriented development relies on increased housing near transit, which is often very expensive land. The county has a tremendous opportunity to use county-owned land as their contribution to creating more affordability in TOD units.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

As this is not my area of expertise, I would rely on the leaders from our synagogues, houses of worship and faith-based agencies who they need to feel safe. Public safety for all our residents is a high priority and I would support the necessary funding and policies to ensure safety.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

We have come a long way and have a long way to go. The State just based the Climate Solutions Act 2022 (SB528) to look at reducing greenhouse gas emission even further and suggesting that MD be at net zero by 2045. This

is an omnibus bill with considerable initiatives including electric school buses, electric fleets, building codes, State procurement requirements for clean energy. The County created a Climate Action Plan that is fairly comprehensive and attempts to include the largest climate issues impacting the County. Including detailed action steps for • Improving energy efficiency in buildings • Increasing transit options • Focusing on carbon free clean energy The Climate Action Plan is a good starting point and needs to be operationalized in terms of what specific steps need to be done, by which departments, in what timeframe, with what resources. The biggest concerns are: • The cost and how the County will pay for the actions identified. • Not addressing actions outside the County's control. These actions should be identified along with the relevant jurisdiction to make sure that the County and residents are advocating for change at all levels. • The plan does not address land use and the impact of more densely populated communities. I think there is some low-hanging fruit • curbside composting, • reduction and ultimate elimination of single use plastics, • continued protection of our water sources and our Ag Reserve. • The commercial / residential building industry certainly have a critical part to play. I support a carrot vs. stick approach and would rely on the building industry to help identify how we can build / retrofit buildings and residents. Solar - We need to start putting solar on county buildings such as schools and libraries. There are a lot of cities in the US that are doing this. Through the CIP and in conjunction with MCPS, begin to require solar panels be added to County projects, including new schools.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I fully support a woman's right to a safe and affordable abortion. I have been protesting and supporting this issue for over 40 years. We are fortunate in Maryland, that we have strong state protection. That will also make Maryland a safe haven depending on what happens with the Supreme Court and surrounding jurisdictions. The County needs to make sure we have funding available to manage any influx of woman seeking services.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

As mentioned above, I support County funding for nonprofit agencies that provide necessary services to our community.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

As mentioned above, it is the County's responsibility to ensure the safety of all our residents including security for nonprofits/houses of worship.

**Lorna Phillips Forde**

Did not submit a response.

**William Roberts**

Did not submit a response.

**DISTRICT 3- DEMOCRATIC**

**Tiquia Bennett**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I represent the change I want to see in my community. I am not a politician. I am not afraid to stand up for what's right. I was born and raised here in Montgomery County Md and have dedicated my adult life to fixing the flaws in our foundation to secure the future for our kids.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Damage control, Reformation and Education. These are the things necessary to fix our foundation so our community as a whole has a chance for growth and success.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Redirecting funds and resources to help elevate some of the responsibility from the police force to special teams and peace officers. Expand programs into middle and high schools to get our youth educated on what it means to be a Officer and help the recruiting of future community leaders.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I think it's more important to support non profit organizations than it is to donate to a campaign. We need to publicly support the organizations that support the public.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

It's important to phase people through programs that support housing and home ownership. It's sad enough the people we are referencing are part of the lowest paid and receiving government assistance as they protect and serve us and our families each and everyday. Living wage needs go hand and hand with affordable housing.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

It's important for officers to make rounds around the community and go into facilities especially on worship days to establish a relationship and partnership of safety and security.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Making changes to public transportation and other modes of transportation to get more cars off the road as the state and federal government continue to debate weather climate change is a hoax.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

We were all born free. That includes the freedom and the right to make choices.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

We spend so much money on programs that are not helping our community but make non profits fight for the crumbs when they are making a better impact on our future. We should be increasing operating dollars for non profits. In fact whom ever is running for office should pick at least 2 non profit organizations and ALL monies raised during the campaign should go directly to them.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Yes, it's an necessity right now. There are things we can do today that won't cost a thing. There are definitely things we can do going forward that should be accounted for in the county budget.

**Sidney Katz**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Experience. At least five of the eleven of the next County Council will be new members and they will need the experience that I bring as we navigate the challenges and opportunities in front of us. I am a consensus builder

and problem solver. I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and I care very much about its future.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

The Council has a lot of work to do so it is difficult for me to choose just three! These are in no particular order, but one top issue is public safety. It is vital that everyone feels safe on our streets, in our schools, and in our neighborhoods. I also support increased funding for mental health throughout the community, including in our schools. We need more affordable housing in Montgomery County and I will continue to work with our partners to do everything we can to increase housing stock to meet our current and future needs.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

As the Chair of the Public Safety Committee it is of utmost importance to me that everyone is treated fairly and that our first responders are well-trained, well-managed, and well-compensated.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

Nonprofit organizations are an indispensable resource to the community. I view them as partners that help us fill gaps in society that would otherwise go unaddressed.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

### **first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Expanding affordable housing opportunities in our county is a big challenge. I supported increased funding for the Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) fund. The NOAH Fund project will preserve and create affordable housing properties in areas at risk of rent escalation to higher market rents, including the Purple Line Corridor and County transit corridors.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

We have all seen the alarming rise of hate crimes in Maryland and across the country. I supported the grants for organizations at high risk of experiencing hate crimes and I will continue to support funding for these programs in the next budget.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I support efforts to wean us off fossil fuel and transition to greener sources of energy, like solar power. I am proud that the County has programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as the Montgomery County Green Bank and transitioning our fleets to electric.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am pro-choice. I am troubled by the recent news out of the Supreme Court. If the reversal of Roe v. Wade holds, I would be very troubled by the implications across the country. I support efforts to increase funding for organizations focused on comprehensive family planning, reproductive health and maternal health.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I view non-profits as indispensable partners in the community that help government fill gaps in services that would otherwise go unaddressed. I continue to support increased funding for nonprofits.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I am a strong supporter of these efforts. And I supported increased funding for nonprofits at high risk of hate crimes.

## **Robert Wu**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I will bring experience, a different perspective and focus as the representative of District 3 on the Montgomery County Council. For the past seven years, I have served as a member of the Gaithersburg City Council, and prior to

that as the President of my communities' HOA. My work on the Gaithersburg City Council is directly relevant to the responsibilities of this position. My perspective is also not that of a politician. In my day job, I work for a Fortune 500 company focused on complex national security solutions, and before that as a long-time Federal civilian employee and active duty and reserve Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army. My resume is, perhaps, unique among the sitting council, and likely among other candidates running for office. It is experience and perspective that I will draw upon as I work to address the numerous issues impacting our county. I think my philosophy of governance that I have tried to abide by in Gaithersburg would serve the residents of District 3 well. I emphasize constituent service, and truly listening to all residents. I endeavor to respond to every resident who reaches out to me, and to try to find solutions to any and all issues they bring to me. This is a fundamental element of being an elected official. I will also bring increased emphasis on issues confronting District 3, including working with the municipalities to advance our collective priorities. I will place particular focus on growing transit infrastructure, public safety, pedestrian/bicycle safety, economic development, supporting our schools, and environmental stewardship.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Only three? I would like to accomplish more than three things during my tenure in office, but if forced to pick only three, I choose the following three accomplishments, because of their meaning to me, personally, and the impact that I think they will have on our collective well-being. First, I want to further, and even accelerate the work the county is advancing in combating climate change and other environmental sustainability initiatives. Electrification of the county's vehicle fleet and electric vehicle infrastructure, improved energy

efficiency, waste reduction and diversion initiatives, improved access to clean, renewable energy, and preservation and enhancement of green space are examples of areas where I would like to focus. As a person who has long focused on environmentalism, since college even, making sure that we are meeting our obligations as stewards of that which has been entrusted to us is very important to me. It is something I have focused on during my tenure on the Gaithersburg City Council, and something I would like to continue to emphasize on the county council. Second, I want to focus on economic development and improving our regional competitiveness with respect to attracting and growing the jobs of tomorrow. There are many wonderful things that can be accomplished in our county, but this requires a strong and vibrant economy as a foundation. I want to use my experience and expertise working for the Federal government and in the private sector on procurement and innovation to refocus the county's efforts to attract and grow jobs in various sectors, including technology, national security and defense. I have been working already with like-minded individuals on ideas for how we can leverage our proximity to Federal laboratories and research institutions to grow our economy. I have also been working on initiatives in Gaithersburg to support our education pipeline focused on STEM. Our most attractive employers demand a pipeline of talent to support their growth, and I want to further the development of that ecosystem in our county. Finally, I want to work on building and connecting the communities that we love and enjoy here in Montgomery County. This requires emphasizing high-capacity transit and mixed-modal infrastructure throughout the county, including in District 3. Bus rapid transit along MD 355 and Veirs Mill Road are important projects for Gaithersburg and Rockville, as is expanded MARC service, and realizing the county's Bike Master Plan, in conjunction with municipal mixed-modal priorities. Emphasis in these areas will help the municipalities realize their potential for developing safe, connected, mixed-use communities. This will, in turn, improve the quality of life for our residents.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

At the heart of our public safety apparatus needs to be a well-trained and equipped, motivated police force that is focused on policing in accordance with our community's values. We need to change the negative narrative surrounding policing, and ensure that we have policies in place to hire, train, equip and retain the best law enforcement officers to serve our community. We need to ensure sufficient resources to indoctrinate those officers in progressive policing techniques, such as community policing, de-escalation, and anti-bias so that the community they serve trusts them. With a firm basis in progressive community-based policing to address public safety matters in the county, we can focus on alternatives to policing in areas that should be addressed through more appropriate means. Mental health crisis is a prime example where mental health personnel working with law enforcement could be a more effective strategy, and it should be the focus of the county to build out additional capabilities so that law enforcement can focus on their core public safety mission. Automation of non-safety related traffic enforcement is another strategy that could be effective in both effectively utilizing our law enforcement officers for public safety matters, as well as removing opportunities for biased enforcement that impact even the most well intentioned communities. In my mind, it is possible to have a respected public safety apparatus coupled with progressive police reform that is consistent with our community's values.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

The county cannot serve its residents without the many nonprofit partners it supports. Continued funding of various initiatives, particularly those focused on our most vulnerable and marginalized populations is very important. I would also like to specifically work on partnerships that increase access to county services, programs and government for our various non-English speaking populations.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I support strategies to increase attainable and affordable housing in the county, including increased development of a diverse housing stock particularly around high-capacity transit, regulatory programs such as moderately priced dwelling units and workforce housing, as well as direct funding of affordable housing, through the HOC and otherwise. One area I would like to work on, in particular, is increased emphasis

on ways to enable county employees to live in the communities they serve. Whether this is through mortgage and down payment assistance, housing subsidies, or other strategies, I firmly believe that if you are a county employee, you should be able to live within the communities that you serve.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

It is absolutely tragic that in our county in 2022, there remain very real concerns about the safety of our local synagogues and other faith-based institutions. It goes without saying that the county's public safety resources must be made available to these institutions in their times of need. No one should live in fear because of the practice of their beliefs. Also, as a county leader, I would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our local faith-based leaders when called upon to support our communities, as I have done as an elected official in the City of Gaithersburg, and will continue to do at the county level.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The county has adopted an ambitious Climate Action Plan, and should be congratulated for doing so. Now comes the hard part of implementing that plan. As an environmentalist, with a degree in biology and environmental studies, and a track record of advancing practical green policies, combating climate change is something that is important to me. I am proudly endorsed by the Sierra Club, and will work with any stakeholder who wants to advance initiatives to seriously address the climate impacts of our human activities.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

A woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions is absolute and inviolable. Access to affordable and safe care, including abortions is an essential element of that inviolable right.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

Countless citizens in our county are dependent on the incredible work that organizations like JSSA and Washington Hebrew Homes provide. We need to support such invaluable work by non-profit agencies to the fullest. On the campaign trail, one of my most avid volunteers is someone with a disability who has previously been a client of JSSA and other Jewish-faith based non-profit agencies. They have shared how the financial crisis in 2008 impacted their care and life, and how non-profit agencies played a major role in stabilizing their life. As I often say in describing our budgetary responsibilities in Gaithersburg, a budget is an expression of priorities. We must support those who support our most vulnerable residents, and those who work to improve the situations of our communities. If a reasonable case can be made to meet an unmet need of the community through a nonprofit partner, then I think it is incumbent on the county to provide support.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

As we have seen across the country, and especially at our nation's synagogues, there is an unmet need for security for nonprofits and houses of worship. While the county has begun to address this in recent years, it is morally incumbent upon our government to seek to meet those public safety needs by all means necessary and at our disposal. I pledge to make public safety spending and the security of our non-profits and houses of worship a priority if elected to the county council.

## **DISTRICT 4- Democratic**

### **Al Carr**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

My wife is Jewish and I am African American. We made our home in Montgomery County 25 years ago and are raising 3 boys who attend Montgomery County Public Schools. The County Council is a legislative position so it is important for voters to select the candidate with a strong record of legislative leadership and accomplishment. I have 20 years of legislative experience - 15 years as a State Delegate. In that role I write and passed dozens of bills to improve the lives of Marylanders on healthcare, environmental protection, education, antidiscrimination, open government and more. Before that I served three terms in local

government on the Kensington council and as Mayor Pro Tem. In that role I championed responsible budget policies while improving public safety and promoting economic development.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1) Improving the County's engagement with citizens - especially on land use matters 2) Promoting better transportation and environmental policies by investing in pedestrian safety, Ride On bus improvements and investing in MARC Commuter rail 3) Improving the County's management of its infrastructure - especially focusing on threat of flooding to lives, housing and property

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I believe that public safety and policy accountability are not mutually exclusive. As a Delegate I was proud to vote for the nation's strongest police reform and accountability measures. If elected, I will seek to implement locally the strong measures we enacted at the state level.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I believe that public dollars invested in nonprofit agencies pay dividends in the form of a strong social safety net.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Montgomery County has a high cost of living - especially when it comes to housing. If elected, I would advocate for the County to partner with the state by supplementing and promoting the Renters and Homeowners Tax Credit Programs. I would cap property tax assessment increases at 5% annually. I would seek to preserve the affordable housing that we already have. I would also seek ways to address high utility costs - our water and sewer rates are sometimes double those of Fairfax County because of overspending at WSSC. Too many tenants are overpaying for inferior broadband service. Our housing agency, HOC has great potential to house people. As a Delegate I worked to bring this agency back into the mainstream of transparency and accountability. If elected, I would continue my efforts to strengthen HOC.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

We must respond vigorously to hate crimes including antisemitic incidents that are sadly on the rise. Our county government can devote resources to assisting with security at houses of worship. Our county police can vigorously enforce any incidents that arise. Our state's attorney must hold perpetrators accountable. We must also educate our youth about the danger of hateful ideology and where it can lead.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

As a Maryland State Delegate I was proud to take strong action to protect our climate. I voted to incentivize renewable energy sources like wind and solar, to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles and to green our buildings. Most recently I voted for the community choice energy act and the climate protection act - the nation's strongest climate change protection package. As a Council member I will seek to implement these state policies locally.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

As a Maryland State Delegate I was proud to always protect women's reproductive freedom and to vote for the nation's strongest abortion care law in 2022.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I believe that public dollars invested in nonprofit agencies will pay dividends in the form of a strong social safety net.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

In these uncertain times, safety at nonprofits and houses of worship is crucial and I support public funding for this purpose

## Amy Ginsburg



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As a leader of nonprofit organizations for forty years, I brought together people, business, and government to address problems and provide essential services efficiently and effectively.

I excel at stretching dollars and achieving tangible outcomes. As the executive director of Manna Food Center, I helped 2,000 families put food on the table every month. When I was the CEO of Needy Kids, I helped students across the DC Metro area get the essentials they need to succeed in school. For the past seven years, as executive director of Friends of White Flint, I led property owners, businesses, and residents to transform the North Bethesda/Pike District area into a walkable, transit-oriented, vibrant neighborhood. I worked with SHA, MCDOT, and the County Council to install important pedestrian safety measures and build separated bike lanes. I worked with both government and property owners to support the small businesses and residents of the Pike District. A lifelong resident of Montgomery County and nonprofit executive, I will bring a unique perspective to the council focused on obtaining real results. I want to stop the endless studies and useless proclamations and take bold action to address our housing crisis, attract high-quality jobs, support small businesses, mitigate climate change, address growing income inequality, and educate our children. I'm focused on building more housing of all kinds to address our housing crisis. 14,000 jobs should be here in Montgomery County but have gone elsewhere in the region, and I will work to bring jobs to the county. I'll also support our small businesses who generate most jobs. I want our graduates to find homes they can afford and jobs they can walk in a Montgomery County they can call home. As a councilmember, I will merge progressive values, a strong economy, and pragmatic leadership to get things done.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1) I want to build market-rate, attainable, and affordable housing to address our housing crisis. We need to build dense housing in our downtown areas and gentle density in our single-family communities, allowing duplexes so empty nesters and young families can stay and find homes in beloved neighborhoods. We must build affordable homes on county land and help faith-based organizations use their excess land to build affordable and attainable housing. 2) 14,000 jobs should be here in Montgomery County but went elsewhere in the region. I want to bring high-quality 9 to 5 jobs to our county because they support our Main Street businesses and bring vitality to our communities. They also expand our tax base so we have the funds we need to mitigate climate change, address growing income inequality, and educate our students for jobs that haven't even been invented yet. To attract investment, we need to support our smart growth communities and create great places, ensure our schools offer a world-class education, reform our approvals process so it moves faster, and build more housing to meet the needs of our workforce. 3) We need to stop studying transit and start building multi-modal transit. First, we need to ask the right questions, asking "how to get people out of their cars" rather than "how to build a BRT network." Perhaps BRT is the right answer, but we've spent 15 years and tens of millions of dollars studying, not building BRT. And the one BRT line we have built isn't true BRT but more akin to express bus service. I think we should have spent those funds on projects achievable projects – pedestrian safety projects, frequent express bus service, bike lanes, and HOV lanes.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

We need to bring true community policing to Montgomery County. We should provide incentives and subsidies to help our police officers and first responders not just work in Montgomery County but also live here. When police are truly part of our community and know our community, trust between residents and police increases, enhancing public safety. We must also ensure mental health professionals are the first to respond to the 25% of calls to police that are for mental health crises. Professionals trained and experienced in mental health crises are the people most able to ensure the best outcomes. Police may need to provide back up, but mental health professionals must take the lead. We used to pay our police officers better than any other jurisdiction and now we're second from the bottom. We must increase pay to attract the best candidates to be police officers. We should also use technology to automate driving enforcement to minimize interactions between police and residents that too often lead to tragic and dangerous consequences for people of color. We must also ensure our officers receive the training

they need to treat all our residents with respect. Officers who unfairly target people due to the color of their skin or how they're dressed must be held accountable and be relieved of duty.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

As someone who has worked for and led nonprofit organizations for 40 years, I understand better than most the unique contributions of our nonprofit sector. Quite frankly, our society would fall apart without the work of nonprofits as many government services are provided via partnership with nonprofit organizations. I believe this arrangement is beneficial as it allows government to provide services more effectively and efficiently and with greater responsiveness more in tune with community needs, especially in communities that are less visible, including people of color, immigrants, people in poverty, the LGBTQIA community, etc. One thing I would change is minimizing the onerous and expensive over-regulation of these partnerships and contracts between government and nonprofit organizations. Too often these regulations do little to ensure accountability and eliminate fraud, serving only to add great expense and time to a nonprofit's workload. While annual or semi-annual reporting of funds spent and outcomes gained is critical for accountability, reams of paperwork and pointless meetings with contract staff help no one. Providing stable funding to nonprofits is important, and government should include funding of these nonprofit partnerships in its budget rather than forcing nonprofits to apply for funding annually. Requiring applications every three years is a more effective way of funding these programs.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

I believe that the county should take every opportunity to build affordable housing, including on top of libraries and fire stations and on other county lands. Because affordable housing is often financially feasible only by including market rate housing with the affordable housing, we should not insist on 100% affordable housing on public lands but instead aim for as high a percentage possible – at least fifty percent -- of affordable and attainable housing. This policy also prevents affordable housing communities from being isolated. I would like to offer subsidies and incentives to our first responders and essential employees to encourage them to not only work in Montgomery County but also live here. It is better for the environment since it cuts down on commuting time, which is often done by car, and it offers our first responders a higher-quality of life without having to endure long commutes. Having our first responders be integral members of our community engenders mutual trust between residents and police and ensures first responders are close by in times of significant emergencies. The county should also support faith-based organizations who wish to build affordable housing on their excess land, providing technical support and guidance through what is often a complex and time-consuming endeavor.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

The council has taken the right approach in the past, providing additional funding for security to houses of worship and other organizations at greater risk of experiencing hate crimes. I would continue the council's success in providing these additional funds. No faith-based community should be unprotected in the current cycle of racially and religiously-motivated hate and violence which plagues our nation and shows itself too often in Montgomery County. As a Jew and as someone married (in all the ways that matter) to someone who is Chinese, this issue is a personal priority.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

• First, we must incentivize smart growth communities and smart land use policies that encourage density and the 15-minute neighborhood. Education and communication will be vital to counter misconceptions and fears. The US EPA notes that encouraging live-work-play communities is one of the most important opportunities for localities to decrease greenhouse gasses. • Second, we must evaluate the current plans for multi-modal transit and stop spending precious funds studying and planning projects that aren't as feasible in the short- or mid-term. For example, many of our envisioned BRT corridors are not practical to build any time soon because we know they will require hundreds of millions of dollars for land acquisition that we don't have and have no clear plan to have. Instead,

let's focus on the progress we can make now, in the six-year capital budget cycle, and beyond that. With BRT, that may mean implementing dedicated lanes in existing traffic lanes or dedicating bus lanes in smaller portions of a larger corridor so that we can make tangible progress sooner rather than later. • Third, I would prioritize pedestrian safety because creating walkable communities not only fights climate change, it also addresses equity (people of color are twice as likely to get hit by drivers than others) gives people a higher quality of life, and attracts the investment we need to have the funds to truly tackle climate change.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

I am 100% in favor of ensuring reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions.

### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

Because Montgomery County relies heavily on nonprofit organizations to provide essential services, especially to our most vulnerable neighbors, we must ensure those organizations receive the funding they need to fulfill their missions efficiently and effectively. If more dollars are need due to inflation, program expansion, and increasing needs, the county ought to provide those funds to our nonprofit partners.

### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

I agree with the county's current policy of providing and increasing as needed operating dollars for the security of nonprofits and houses of worship. Too often, these organizations are targeted in the current state of hatred and violence in which we unfortunately now find ourselves.

## Troy Murtha

Did not submit a response.

## Kate Stewart



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

As a Mayor of Takoma Park since 2015 and Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, I have worked with residents, staff, and public officials at the local, regional, and state level to address COVID-19, implement programs to address housing affordability, support small businesses, help our schools, rethink how we address public safety, make our community more sustainable, and further racial equity. Among other things, I worked to: Put in place a down payment assistance program to help families move from renting to home ownership in the community. Make Takoma Park the first City in the County to convert all our streetlights to LED, improving public safety, reducing energy use and saving taxpayer dollars. Adopt the first racial equity framework in the State of Maryland, which furthers equity and informs decision making from where we prioritize installation of bus shelters to how we assess park quality and accessibility. Coordinate with local school officials to address students' needs inside and outside the schools. Implement police and public safety reforms at the local and state level. As a result of this work, I was asked to serve as Co-Chair of the National League of Cities' Racial Equity and Leadership Council, which works to advance racial equity in communities across the country, and on the Board of the Mayor's Innovation Project, which provides cutting edge solutions and concrete policies and programs for local governments to implement to confront the challenges of housing affordability, climate change, and more. I am also a former small business owner and have worked with business during the pandemic to help small businesses not only survive, but thrive and grow. I am ready to bring my experience, hard work and common-sense solutions to county government.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1) Improve Mental Health: Mental health was a crisis before COVID-19 and it has only gotten worse, especially for young people, and we do not have the structures in place to address it. First, we need to tackle the immediate needs by expanding the number of professionals in our communities and schools. Next, we need to look at the full spectrum of mental health and put in place programs and resources to ensure mental health promotion, crisis prevention, and treatment. Councilwoman Navarro has started this work, championing wellness centers in all county high schools. We need to make sure that we finish and expand upon it. I have the endorsement of MCEA, the teachers' union, and look forward to working with them to put in place the needed programs to assist our students, educators, and school staff. 2) Create More & More Affordable

Housing: We need to ensure that we are able to meet the housing needs of County residents. Montgomery County is no longer affordable for teachers and others that form the backbone of our community. We need to develop more and more affordable housing, including housing for many who have been priced out of the market. And, we need to prevent displacement of residents by expanding renter protections and assistance programs for older homeowners. 3) Spur Economic Development: As a former small business owner, I understand the challenges confronting entrepreneurs who drive our economy. We need to do more to attract, promote, and grow our local businesses. This means listening to our businesses and making sure that the County government provides them with paths to success, not needless roadblocks. It also means providing training programs and access to capital to make sure that all of our residents can participate in our economic growth and prosperity.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

As Takoma Park's Mayor, I have experience working with a full-service police department and on public safety reform at a local and state level. Done correctly, the goals of public safety and police reform are not in tension because changing and improving how and when we police can create a more equitable AND safer community for all our residents. To make progress, we need to start with three things. First, we need to set clear expectations for our police officers and hold them accountable. In Takoma Park, we moved from a department seeking to "intimidate" to one focused on promoting public safety while upholding residents' rights and dignity. Second, we need to act more strategically and ensure we are promoting public safety. In Takoma Park, we reduced discretionary traffic stops dramatically by prioritizing safety and revamping our incentive structure to reward community safety rather than the quantity of enforcement and saw a reduction in reported collisions. At the county level, discretionary traffic stops are the most common form of interaction between MCPD and residents -- more than 110,000 stops annually. The vast majority of stops are conducted by patrol officers, rather than as part of a strategic effort to address safety and are a major component of discretionary policing. We know that this type of policing results in over-policing and the targeting of Black and Brown residents. If we change this system, we can focus our police resources where they are needed most. Third, we need to stop asking police to handle situations that call for civilian intervention. For example, police are often the only resource available to confront mental health emergencies. Trained mental health professionals can often handle these situations with less danger to the individual in crisis and the public.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

As a former non-profit executive and as Mayor in Takoma Park, I know first-hand the crucial role nonprofits play in supporting residents and making the County a great place to live. Nonprofits organizations provide critical services to our residents most in need and on the ground information necessary for county government to make good decisions about community needs and where resources can make the biggest difference. In Takoma Park, I have worked with CHEER and other nonprofits to help connect with and meet the needs of residents in the City. We need to ensure these groups are supported by the County and can continue to do their work. In addition, as a former nonprofit executive, I know the value and efficacy of having multi-year grants and contracts, as well as providing general funds to ensure staff capacity. We need to partner with the nonprofits in ways that set them up for success and make it easier for them to help our communities.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

We need to ensure that we are able to meet the housing needs of County residents. Montgomery County is no longer affordable for most teachers and others that form the backbone of our community. We need to develop more and more affordable housing, including missing middle housing for many who have been priced out of the market. There is no one solution to our affordable housing crisis. Rather, as a County we need to use a variety of tools to ensure that we create affordable and sustainable housing for all who live in the County. These tools include: Increased density and infill development around public transit Inclusionary zoning practices Subsidies for affordable housing in transit and amenity rich areas Partnerships with nonprofits to develop

affordable and middle housing. Use of federal housing programs to increase affordable housing. Down-payment assistance to help those looking to transition from renting to home ownership, particularly communities that have historically been disadvantaged and discriminated against because of immigration status, tenancy, age, ability, race or ethnicity, or economic status. Protections for tenants because ensuring residents have a safe and reliable home should not depend on whether they choose or can afford to buy a home. I started my tenure as Mayor in Takoma Park by hosting a community conversation on housing that brought together city staff, members of the community, and local and national housing experts. Based on what we learned from that conversation, I spearheaded the adoption of a Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan and followed up with programs to address housing affordability. Through these programs, we have partnered with non-profits to build missing middle housing and provided down payment assistance programs that have helped community members move from renting to home ownership.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

Synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies and community centers are a vital and vibrant part of our community. They provide refuge and a safe haven for many and we need to make sure that they are safe places for all who use them. As mayor of a city, I have experience working closely with our police department that has had to deal with racist and antisemitic threats to our residents, including threats to our local Congressman, Jamie Raskin, and other high profile individuals who live in the City. To address security concerns, it is imperative that we have strong communications among our synagogues and other houses of worship, county police, and state and federal law enforcement agencies. Working together, we can identify threats early and move resources to where they are needed to protect people. We also need to be proactive and ensure we are monitoring potential threats. I have seen this done successfully by having law enforcement monitor social media, as well as connect regionally. This was done recently when the truck convoy was coming to our region and in the aftermath of the insurrection on January 6th. Communication, information sharing, and coordination are key.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I am honored to be endorsed by the Sierra Club for my work on the environment. In order to address the climate crises at the county level, we need to focus on areas that provide the biggest greenhouse reduction for the dollar. The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions are buildings and transportation (each accounting for more than 40% of the County's emissions). Thus, we need to: Focus on existing buildings: Pass regulations and provide resources for implementing building energy performance standards, focused on multifamily and small commercial buildings to help residents who are most vulnerable tackle how to move forward faster on electrification requirements and provide incentives for existing buildings. Decarbonize Transportation: Support and move faster on public transit projects, including scaling up of Bus Rapid Transit, and focusing on decarbonizing vehicles through programs that make electric vehicles more widely available and affordable. There is considerable need to integrate transportation planning with equity, housing and land use policy. We also need to create the infrastructure for zero waste management by moving forward immediately with building our own composting facility(ies) in the County so that we can move beyond the current compost pilot, and upgrade our recycling plant.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

For over 25 years, I have worked in the reproductive rights, health and justice (RHRJ) field. I spent the first part of my career as a researcher and provided advice to organizations working to secure reproductive rights. From 2012 to 2015, I served as the Executive Vice President for Advocates for Youth where I worked to advocate for young people's right to sexual health education and services. For the last seven years, I have provided communication and public opinion advice and trainings to advocates in the RHRJ field and elected officials, including state legislators and members of Congress. When the draft Supreme Court decision leaked from the Supreme Court, I wrote a letter to the Biden Administration and Congress to act to ensure abortion access and recruited over 70 women mayors from Takoma Park, Maryland to Tacoma, Washington, to Chicago, Illinois, to New Orleans, Louisiana to sign onto the letter. Given the impending Supreme Court decision, we are at a critical time in our country

particularly regarding access to abortion care and ensuring the full range of reproductive health and rights. Among the things we need to do in the County: Protect clinics: Protect and support our abortion care providers. Protect people: Protect people who need abortions, including people who travel from out of state because abortion care is not available where they live. Provide Funding: Ensure we have in place needed funding and programs to assist those who cannot afford reproductive health care. Ensure access to affordable contraception. Ensure school leave for pregnant and parenting students. Expand affordable child care, which is desperately needed in the County. Work with employers and labor unions to ensure we have protections in place for pregnant and parenting workers.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

To me the basic question we have to ask when providing County services is how do we most efficiently, effectively and equitably provide our services. Often, nonprofits agencies are closer to problems that the County is seeking to solve, have the expertise and connections with a specific community, and already have processes or facilities in place to provide the services. Having been a non-profit executive, I know the importance of multi-year grants or contracts and receiving operating dollars to ensure you can keep the lights on and pay staff. I promise to be a champion for the County's non-profits on the Council.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

It is critical that we protect the safety of all our residents and it is especially important that we protect the freedom to worship in a safe and secure space. I recently attended a vigil for the victims of the Buffalo shooting, during which a number of faith leaders emphasized the need for security funding to protect against racist and antisemitic attacks. I agree that we need to ensure our places of worship have County support. In last year's budget the County allocated \$700,000 to assist with security at places of worship, and in this year's, budget that has been increased to \$800,000. Given the rise in antisemitism and attacks on synagogues and other houses of worship, I would like to work with faith leaders and others to ensure the resources are available to meet the community security needs.

### **John Zittrauer**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I've lived in this county for over a decade, and worked in retail and hospitality for all of my adult life. Like a lot of people in these and other industries, I've lived paycheck-to-paycheck for that whole time. This life experience

brings a new perspective into local politics, where we spotlight diversity in all demographics except income and status.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

My first priority will be to eliminate homelessness in one of the most affluent counties in the country through an increase in public housing while simultaneously redefining and increasing what the county calls affordable housing. Next: a basic standard of living for everyone, with jobs for all who are able to work and a living wage. Our current minimum wage doesn't allow anyone to afford life in this county and it needs to be tied to a realistic living wage. Finally, I want to repeal cash bail as part of a broader reform of our criminal justice system.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Any discussion of crime without discussing its root cause - poverty - is cynical and incomplete. Address need and you address crime. Ending homelessness and guaranteeing a living wage will do more to increase public safety than any police initiative. Regarding police reform, the Police Accountability Board has to include members of communities that have been victims of overpolicing, and the positions need to pay well enough that members can dedicate the time necessary to do the work. Also, cops don't belong in schools. Remove them.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

Nonprofits step in to do the work that the government should be doing; the least we can do is help them with funding.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and**

#### **how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I am an MPDU renter currently; without this program, I can't afford to live here. We need to increase the number of MPDUs in the county but also look at how we define 'affordable housing' as many people in my current line of work are still priced out of the area and can't live near work. Public or social housing, and sliding scale rents, can properly address the needs of our most vulnerable population. Economic development happens when people can afford to spend money, which won't happen if all of our money goes toward rent.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

Elected officials have to start by being present in these communities. Being out in the world is the most basic way of hearing the needs of our constituents. Also, the staff of a synagogue is better at recognizing anti-Semitism than I will ever be and can educate the community if we give them the platform. Through that education I would like to think we should see a decrease in hateful acts, but at the same time I am not naive enough to think they will just go away. If an increase in private security is needed due to hate crimes, the county should help with that expense. It is our responsibility to keep each other safe.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Building walkable communities will go a long way in addressing climate change. To do that, we need sidewalks everywhere and an increased focus on pedestrian safety. We also need more housing near transit, and free public transit, to get people out of their cars. New development must include green spaces, and we should make it easier for businesses - particularly those in the food service industry - to compost. During the winter, we are over-salting our roads which eventually harms life in our watersheds. That needs to be looked at, as well.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

Reproductive rights are human rights, and human rights don't have cost barriers. I support a person's right to choose when or if they begin a family, and that aspect of healthcare - like all other aspects of healthcare - should be without cost.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

If our local, state, and federal government cared for its citizens the way it should, nonprofits might not need more funding. Until that day, however, we should look at the organizations doing the most good for those who have the least, and see that their work can succeed and grow.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Private security for nonprofits or houses of worship is an unfortunate necessity, but it is one that we in the county government should definitely help fund.

### **DISTRICT 5- Democratic**

### **Brian Anleu**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am a lifelong resident of this district and I have dedicated my career to public service. I spent five years as a Council staffer and currently work for the Park and Planning Commission. I have helped pass bills that deal with neighborhood blight, increase solar projects in the county, and reduce lead in schools. I have spent considerable time serving my community on the PTA and various other civic groups. I understand how County budgets and government work, and will be practical, communicative and effective immediately.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Address our housing shortage by allowing a wider variety of housing types in all parts of the county; encouraging innovative construction methods, such as mass timber and prefabrication; using financing mechanisms such as TIFs and PILOTs; and adding resources to the Housing Initiative Fund; 2. Grow our economy by fast tracking the permitting and development approval

process for biomedical space, and creating targeted incentives, such as a job creation fund, to help attract employers and high-wage jobs to the county; 3. Meet the county's environmental goals by allowing solar on non-productive farmland in the Agricultural Reserve; expanding green construction financing and incentives; and using Watershed Management Plans to identify specific watershed needs and better direct resources.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

We need to address staffing shortages by raising starting officer pay, which is currently the lowest in the region. I also support expanding County funding for the Street Outreach Network to put it on par with the DC version of the same program, which has approximately 40 staff members and provides critical support to law enforcement and best case, total diversion of youth from any police involvement. I support funding for after school programming, positive youth development and other youth engagement or programming that keeps them out of trouble; these are all things that can make police's difficult jobs easier now and in the future. We also need to prioritize a community response model to crisis intervention by involving mental health professionals and social workers more. I worked on the appropriation to expand the Mobile Crisis Team from two staffers to six. This would allow a crisis unit to be embedded within each police district, so that they can run calls with the police officers and help train them on how to respond to crisis situations.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I support the County's strong partnerships with funded and nonfunded members of our nonprofit community.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Increasing stable, attainable housing options will be one of my top priorities if elected. We need to take many steps to increase the supply of housing and make it more affordable, such as allowing "missing middle" housing types, modernizing our building code; using financing mechanisms such as tax increment financing and payments in lieu of taxes; and adding resources to the Housing Initiative Fund. Missing middle housing includes allowing duplexes, triplexes and quadruplexes in more parts of the county. Adding more of these housing types gives more residents a shot to age in place. Modernizing our building code to allow for mass timber and prefabrication housing would lower the cost of building housing and therefore lower the price of rents. Ensuring that the Housing Initiative Fund is adequately funded allows the county to preserve existing affordable housing and finance new housing construction. Building more housing of all types would strengthen the county's workforce by allowing more people to live closer to work.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I am pleased that the current county operating budget includes \$500,000 in grants for increased security at places of worship. I would continue to support this appropriation in future county budgets until all faith-based groups have adequate security and staffing to protect themselves from hate crimes.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I am proudly endorsed by the Sierra Club —the leading environmental advocacy group in the county and state. I was endorsed by this group because of my work to expand renewable energy and green construction in the county. The County's Climate Action Plan is a strong starting point for tackling climate change, but the plan missed the opportunity to incorporate land use strategies that emphasize the importance of compact, mixed-use development near transit. I would urge the Council and Executive to focus on the following: 1. Dense, mixed-use development with complementary investments in transit, which has consistently been found to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. The first thing the Council can do to address climate change is to allow a wider variety of housing types in all parts of the county, but especially along high-capacity transit corridors, and to fund and construct the countywide bus rapid transit network that was approved almost a decade ago. 2. If we are going to meet our GHG reduction goals, renewable energy needs to be a big part of that effort. Rooftop solar won't be enough, so the Council needs to encourage large scale solar projects on land with less-than-prime soils

in the Ag Reserve. These projects not only reduce our reliance on coal and natural gas, they also provide an income stream for farmers that will help to ensure that agriculture remains economically viable in Montgomery County, which is important to land conservation, resource stewardship, and the supply of locally-produced food.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I am firmly pro-choice and in support of every person's right to reproductive freedom and protecting women's easy, affordable, safe access to abortions. Everyone should have a full spectrum of safe, high quality reproductive health care options and absolute control over their bodies. I support the County's recent funding for abortion and reproductive care as well as efforts to push our state legislature to codify Roe v. Wade. Although the County can't legislate directly on reproductive freedom, I support making room now and going forward in the County's operating budget and through strengthening the existing Montgomery Cares program partnerships to fund critical access to reproductive related health care and abortions, particularly for those who are uninsured. Via new state legislation and local funding we can and should the county and state remain a place where women's health is respected and unburdened, including reproductive health and abortions.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I support more funding for nonprofits through the County's operating budget. The ongoing budget pressures COVID will require our nonprofits to do more for more people, while recruiting and retention challenges, gas and other operating cost increases will stress our nonprofit's budgets significantly. Thus to simply maintain the level of service our nonprofits currently provide constituents, they'll need more, which the County can and should provide. I also support the long-sought move away from required annual County grant applications, interviews and budget advocacy and moving more longtime larger grantees of the County providing critical services that the County will always need into the County's base operating budget.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

As previously mentioned, I support county grants to help fund security for faith-based organizations and houses of worship.

### **Fatmata Barrie**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am an Immigration and Special Education Law Attorney. I have also worked on public safety policy for Councilmember Will Jawando, who has personally endorsed me. Not only have I lived in the White

Oak area of District 5 for 20 years, over that time I have advocated for residents and their rights with passion and tenacity, including offering free law clinics on my own time, and getting an early voting site for East County residents. I have received more endorsements than any of my opponents from a broad coalition of organizations who saw in me the character and qualifications they believe will bring the best representation for their members including the coveted Apple Ballot (MCEA), Jews United for Justice (JUF) Campaign Fund, CASA in Action, SEIU Local 500, LiUNA, Progressive Maryland, and the Women of Color Coalition. More importantly, it's not only about what I have done in the past, but what I will do for the community in the future when I am on the Council. I will fight for equity and inclusion for all residents of District 5 and Montgomery County regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, economic status, or citizenship.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I have many priorities that are outlined in my campaign platform at [www.fatmatabarrie.com](http://www.fatmatabarrie.com). However, three things I want to accomplish when I am elected to the County Council are: (1) Educational Equity: In order to achieve educational equity across the county, we must first improve the relationship between the Council, the Board of Education, and the MCPS; as well as, attaching metrics to budget items and conducting oversight to ensure that the MCPS funding is being used to achieve educational equity (<https://www.fatmatabarrie.com/educational-equity/>), (2) Economic Development: one of my signature policies is the creation of an inclusive, integrated approach to Economic Development. The central tenet of economic development should be about people, not just about attracting investment. An integrated economic development plan will consider all aspects

of community life, with equal access to all residents, including incentivizing small and large businesses to locate in underserved neighborhoods so families will have access to quality food sources, accessible childcare, and job opportunities near where they live and attend school. This includes affordable and safe transportation options to provide access to specialty services outside an immediate neighborhood, as well as educational and training opportunities (<https://www.fatmatabarrie.com/economic-development/>), and (3) Affordable Housing and Housing Equity: Housing regulations and policies should ensure that housing is affordable, accessible, safe and healthy. Housing must be affordable for all income levels; including for renters, buyers, and provide a path to ownership. Housing must be financially accessible through innovative tenant and owner programs, and geographically accessible to transportation corridors so residents can get to their jobs safely and efficiently. Housing must also be healthy, constructed with quality, green, and sustainable materials (<https://www.fatmatabarrie.com/housing-equity/>).

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Everyone deserves to feel safe where they live - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or economic status. From 2013 to 2019, 10 county residents lost their lives in police-related incidents. Black residents make up 63 percent of those killed by police in the State of Maryland. Furthermore, at least 18 percent of Maryland residents killed by police exhibited signs of mental illness and 22 percent were unarmed. Two of these shootings happened just a few minutes from my home in White Oak! State and local officials have been working to introduce legislation that addresses police brutality and eliminate racial disparities, but we have a long way to go. I want to be part of the solution for you, for our communities, and for me. In my view, police reform is part of the solution for keeping us safe, particularly Black residents; and quite frankly, smart police reform will keep our law enforcement officers safer. As your representative on the Montgomery County Council, I will ensure that local law enforcement follow newly enacted policies and procedures and fight to reimagine public safety so we can build safer communities. I will support funding to address the root cause of community issues that lead to police involvement. And, finally, I will work to establish a program for mental health first responders in lieu of police force when warranted, including mental health services for law enforcement officers themselves who also experience forms of emotional trauma.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

One in ten workers in Montgomery County work for at least one of the over 5300 nonprofit organizations in the county (Source: Nonprofit Montgomery). Many of these organizations add value to the communities they serve and local governments routinely partner with nonprofit organizations to provide social services to constituents. "Like their for-profit counterparts, they are an essential part of Montgomery County's economic landscape, paying wages and purchasing goods and services." A collaborative relationship with local nonprofits can aid in achieving the county's goals and expand their reach into the community, whereas nonprofit providers rely on government funding in return for services. This partnership depends on contracts and grants. The vast majority of funds Montgomery County nonprofits receive as public service providers are through competitive bidding. Other funding opportunities are through the County Executive and the County Council in the form of one-year discretionary payments and are not competitive bids. There is also an avenue to obtain direct Federal funding available to help fund certain projects. The County Council can advocate for this funding through their Congressional Delegation. However, the relationship between government and nonprofit organizations is not without problems such as procurement delays, late payments, insufficient payments, scope drift, and payment delays. Also, many nonprofits are minority owned small businesses who need to navigate a complicated system. When on the council I will explore what the issues are and how they can be resolved and the process streamlined. I will also ensure that funds are distributed in an equitable manner, and new service providers are given a chance to take advantage of available funding sources.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Affordable Housing is one of my priorities. I believe safe housing is a human right. District 5, which encompasses the east side of Montgomery County, saw a decline in real income between 2009-2014 of 12-16%. COVID-

19 has exacerbated the need for affordable housing. In order to provide good quality housing options for low and moderate income earners, the county should create programs that not only provide rental assistance to tenants, but also incentives for landlords to offer a percentage of available units to low-moderate income applicants. Also, home ownership opportunity programs should be available where new homeowners can purchase into the program at a predetermined percentage of the market value of the property. I also support House Bill 927 that looks at repurposing the current inventory of state-owned real property that may be suitable for affordable housing. We can also add more value to refresh projects such as public library renovations by adding affordable rental units to the new design. I have lived in White Oak for 20 years. We are expecting revitalization to take place with the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan & Viva White Oak. The issue here is that the development could cause our community members to be displaced. The council can create legislation that directly addresses the need for more affordable housing and hold developers accountable when they build to ensure current residents can remain in their homes with the same or better quality of life. Additionally, the council should have the ability to push for different types of taxing of existing homes when new properties are built in any community to stave off the possibility of pricing people out of their home.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

As a practicing Muslim, this trend is very personal to me. I am running on a platform of equity and inclusion. We will no longer stand by and allow our residents to be discriminated against. Every resident deserves our support regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, economic status, or citizenship. Having said that, we cannot fight hate with hate, or address gun violence with more guns. What we need to do is address the culture of hate with education, communication, and caring, including access to mental health services. I envision a series of community forums for residents of all religions to meet and learn more about each other's cultural differences. However, and unfortunately, we need an immediate, practical solution to keep our synagogues, mosques and churches secure and safe. Continued police presence is warranted. Other options are the continuation of the available grants to help fund security improvements and county provided security training for religious communities and groups.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

In general, my top priority in the council for combating climate change is to ensure that enacted climate legislation is implemented in an equitable way. Currently, the Maryland General Assembly is considering SB0135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ). The bill will establish greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and assess GHG pollution fees and would distribute those benefits to households and employers in the State to mitigate the impact of fees under the initiative. In essence, the CCEJ provides funds for low- and moderate-income families as well as local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions. Regarding the County Executive's Climate Action Plan: I agree with the CE that it is a climate emergency. As the County is doing work on the development of a Climate Action Plan, it needs to drastically increase the staffing and resources to accelerate the effort. The County also must work to make all aspects of the implementation equitable. This is critical for a county that has a majority-minority population.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I have taken public positions in relation to reproductive health especially as it relates to the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities. I have had conversations with elected officials in advocating for access to healthcare. I have publicly spoken about providing equity in healthcare. Also, as a legislative aide in the Montgomery County Council, I spearheaded the drafting and passage of our sexual harassment bill that lowered the standard of proof for victims of sexual harassment. Prior to this legislation, sexual harassment victims were unable to meet their burden of proof and the perpetrators were not held accountable. This makes it more equitable and allows a woman to have bodily autonomy. Maryland legalized access to abortion in 1992 and it remains today. However, on July 1st of this year "a new law will allow nurse practitioners, physician assistants and midwives...to perform abortions in Maryland." This is encouraging, however we come back again to the issues of lack of information and access

to services. I will support any state and local efforts to expand access to reproductive healthcare within the state, particularly in underserved areas of Montgomery County.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

The budget process is complicated yet still requires constant scrutiny. However, during my time as a Sr. Legislative Aide on the council, I realized that there is an issue with equitable distribution of funding. I would like to see grassroots organizations that service our Black communities receive funding at the same level as many other organizations. As in many things, including procurement, there is disparity in distribution of funds and resources. Therefore, we must address this issue in the same light as all county funding, through a racial equity lens. In general, I am not opposed to increasing operating dollars for nonprofits. However, a close inspection of the operating dollars for nonprofit procurement programs may reveal areas that can be pinpointed for efficiency savings, thus freeing up more funding.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Per several of my previous answers, immediate security options should be pursued and I believe the county should play a prominent role in providing adequate security and related services to houses of worship.

### **Christopher Bolton**

Did not submit a response.

### **Daniel Koroma**



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am the best candidate for this seat because I've done the grassroots work in the community. I started under former County Executive Leggett, who has endorsed my candidacy and also currently serving on the Montgomery

County Democratic Central Committee. I created the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center in the East County, led County leaders to establish a Sister Cities program in Ethiopia, advocated to keep the Praisner early voting site and fought hard to establish the White Oak early voting site. For the past two years, I've been helping nonprofits and small businesses gain access to grants during the pandemic. My priorities are education, economic development, and housing. On education, I will work with the school system to increase teachers and staff pay, support after school programs to help students with learning losses due to COVID-19 and champion the proposed fourth Montgomery College campus in the East County. On housing -I will work to increase housing affordability for all eligible income levels and increase pathways to homeownership, which will reduce the racial and generational wealth gaps. Economic development -I will work with my colleagues on the Council to make the needed infrastructural investments in the East County and target incentives to attract anchor institutions that will pay high wages to local residents. I bring over 15 year of public service and community partnership experience to this race. I am a well rounded person with the policy experience, accomplishments and education to get the job done. I ask for your support and your vote.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I would like to put the County on a path to achieving sustainable progress to a quality educational system that serves all students, that provides a path for comprehensive economic development in all areas of the County and provides for a range of housing options that are accessible to all of our residents. Those three areas are my top priorities, and all contribute to making Montgomery County a better place for all residents, including those already here and those who would locate here for a job or to move or start a business here.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

In my 15 plus years of experience doing community engagement in Montgomery County, police reform and public safety go hand-in-hand. Better policing, brought about by reforms, results in better public safety. For example, I worked with then Commander Jones (Now Chief Jones) to create the White Oak Community Policing Advisory Board which brought together diverse residents in the White Oak neighborhood to discuss and take action on public safety. We have seen the state of Maryland and the Montgomery County Council each enact new laws governing the priorities and policies of police departments. The Department itself is instituting changes in training and organization. These are all for the better. In addition, there are larger issues at play



in the rise in crime nationally that are far beyond the ability of our County and state to address.

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

In 2010, I created the Downcounty Provider Network Meeting which brought together over 30 nonprofits serving downcounty residents and increased collaboration among them. As a Councilmember, I would keep Montgomery County's long and proud tradition of partnerships with nonprofit organizations and expand upon it. I am aware of the immense 4 to 1 return on investment the County gets when funding nonprofits. Over the years, many groups, with County support, have helped to supplement County government efforts to help our residents cope with any number of challenges.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I believe creating more pathways to affordable housing is an equity issue. As a Councilmember who would represent Council District 5, pathways to homeownership would also help to reduce the racial and generational wealth gaps in Montgomery County. This could include teachers, veterans, frontline workers and first responders. In turn, employers who want to start or move businesses here can be rest assured that employees moving here will be able to find places to live that are affordable and will seriously consider Montgomery County in their business evaluation plans.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies?**

Let me combine the answer to this question with the one below about increasing funding for security for nonprofits and houses of worship. These are unfortunately dangerous times for houses of worship that don't subscribe to the political ideas of extremists. As a result, we have to be vigilant in several ways. First, organizations need to beef up their own security, whether through personnel and/or monitoring equipment like cameras. Houses of worship and nonprofits that can't afford such expensive items should be eligible for support from the County in the form of grants. Secondly, law enforcement agencies should be on the premises or on alert at times when those buildings are in use for services or other occasions to respond rapidly to an attack or other disruption.

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The County is already taking several steps with new building codes that will save energy and cut GHG emissions. At some point, the County will have to address in a big way bringing older buildings up to standard for cutting emissions. In addition, the County should lead the way in using power generated from renewable sources, particularly solar, and for advocating for more solar installations on houses and in the Agriculture Reserve. The County's fleet of vehicles and buses should transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and there should be a concerted effort to get people out of their cars and onto mass transit. That is why I am the only candidate in District 5 to support expanding the FLASH bus to Columbia Mall in order to encourage both increased ridership and taking cars off the road.

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

It appears as if Montgomery County and the state of Maryland will be islands of reason in an environment increasingly hostile to reproductive freedom. We should proudly remain that way and do all we can to facilitate the right to affordable and safe abortions for those wishing them. That will mean better security for the facilities we have now and potentially more facilities as demand increases due to restrictions elsewhere.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

If the nonprofit is working with the County to fill in a designated need, then increasing operating funds should be a top priority. Others may do worthwhile work, but the responsibility for fundraising should be the group's priority. Funding can be on a case-by-case basis depending on the availability of public funds.

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding - specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

In addition to my above answer, I will expand the use of the Faith Security Grants offered by the county for nonprofits/houses of worship.

## Cary Lamari



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am a 45-year civic leader, President of Norbeck Citizen's Association, former member of the Mid County Citizens Advisory Board and past president of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

I bring a lifetime of community service working on numerous issues with numerous council members and appointed officials. I have worked with Ida Mae Garrett, Marilyn Praisner, Betty Anne Krahnke, Ike Leggett, my friend Blair Ewing, and many other elected officials as well as hundreds of community leaders who taught me the value of data and developing fact-based responses. I have spent years learning land use, as well as issues surrounding mental health. I have worked on numerous master plans, transportation committees, participated on multiple advisory boards and the Parris Glendening Collaboration Council for Smart Growth where I was appointed, to define smart growth. We worked with the Chesapeake Bay Society, State Historical Society, Eastern Shore agricultural groups, State Chamber of Commerce, and MCPPC with Charlie Lorre who was their appointee director at the time. My lifetime of experience has provided me with an unusual perspective on the issues of our County and how to analyze the data. My community service has also provided me with the ability to spot and disengage false narratives and obfuscation. I believe I am the best candidate to represent the East County and believe I can achieve good results because of my experience and my lifelong relationships. I have background knowledge on where we have been in our County and would like to be a part of where we are going. I would be honored to be able to represent the same constituents my friend Marilyn Praisner had the pleasure to represent and hope to be as equally successful and responsive to their needs with good constituent service to build a better tomorrow.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I would like to create opportunities in three (3) areas: jobs, schools/transportation, affordable housing. Answer: For the last decade residential growth has been .66% and our economic growth (jobs) has been steady at .24%. This is unsustainable and with the Council of Government projecting an increase of 200,000 more residents coming to our county in the next 30 years; 75% of which will need affordable housing. If our jobs continue to decline, our county revenue and housing needs will become devastated. Our property taxes, and constant yield rate will increase, and our safety network will slowly dissolve. We cannot thrive and meet the needs of the population with these dynamics. Rebuild older overcrowded and run-down schools. Build a comprehensive bus system which would include BRT for longer trips carrying more people and a more robust re-imagined Ride-On where the routes compliment where people who would benefit bus ridership, with increased scheduling and I would make it free. This would have the benefit of helping the population who can use it most but also reduce carbon emissions with more ridership and hopefully reduce congestion on our roads. I have been a longtime advocate for Community Land Trusts (CLT). I proposed this new tier of housing in 2006 and again in 2009. Although many politicians liked the idea no one has championed this kind of initiative where nonprofits and government work in unison to build affordable housing and sell the bricks and sticks not the land. This would make properties affordable and provide in-equity building and pride of ownership. By addressing affordable housing and providing opportunities in higher education and vocational training, we are building the workforce for businesses of tomorrow and helping residents stay in our county at the same time.

#### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Society has awoken to a new reality towards public safety. We are moving away from simply the response and triage towards preparedness and wellness. Today we have acknowledged it is best to recognize the signs which bring crime and tragedy and respond to those primers with mental health professionals in our schools and jails, so we do not have the continual revolving door and the homeless population. With increasingly long-standing systemic problems with the low complement of police, community acceptance, accountability and pay hampers our ability to recruit good candidates. We must embrace a collaboration between police and mental wellbeing to bring down the rise in crime. It should be noted I in 5 people in our country have some sort of mental disorder. These people are our friends, neighbors and family members in some cases. In 2001 as former president of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, I participated in a year-long project. The Feder-

ation sponsored its first forum on mental health which I produced. This led to former County Councilmember Blair Ewing to create a "Blue-Ribbon Commission on Mental Health" and its associated report. The findings were never acted upon by the County Council. After the election, like so many other initiatives, the public interest was lost on these concerns and twenty-years later the saga continues. We should embrace and encourage community participation and lay expertise on such issues. This is a link to a review of Blair Ewing's Blue-Ribbon task force report (see link below). [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2009/090624/20090624\\_HHS01.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2009/090624/20090624_HHS01.pdf)

#### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

Public participation and lay expertise are the cornerstone of community and provides needed, and I might add, more affordable ways to meet the needs of public interest. We should embrace, encourage, and partner with nonprofits to enrich our society and meet so many demands which fall to the wayside because of lack of funding or governmental resources.

#### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I believe we have a moral obligation to provide affordable housing. This will require an increase in our commitment to the Housing Initiative Fund and revisiting our Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program. Future development will not be in the realm of projects (20 units or more) which is the prerequisite for the MPDU program but rather infill development one property at a time. We must protect the backbone of affordable housing in our county. About 30% of our residents rely on Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing to work and live here. As I stated in an earlier question, I have been a longtime advocate for Community Land Trusts (CLT). I proposed this new tier of housing in 2006 and again in 2009. Although many politicians liked the idea no one has championed this kind of initiative where nonprofits and government work in unison to build affordable housing and sell the bricks and sticks not the land. This would make properties affordable and provide in-equity building and pride of ownership. I believe CLT, which can be targeted in master plans, we can enjoin projects which have market rate housing will offset land costs to build CLT housing. CLT will provide affordable housing in perpetuity. Owners will only sell bricks and sticks not the land (see link for more information on CLT). [https://maryland-politics.blogspot.com/2009/04/community-land-trusts-new-frontier-in.html?fbclid=IwAR3-SGLj8U\\_p6P9LUiNgyP5fa10bdyEUmTeP7F07qHpUXPNQcw0ITUu9I?Community+Land+Trust=](https://maryland-politics.blogspot.com/2009/04/community-land-trusts-new-frontier-in.html?fbclid=IwAR3-SGLj8U_p6P9LUiNgyP5fa10bdyEUmTeP7F07qHpUXPNQcw0ITUu9I?Community+Land+Trust=) By addressing affordable housing and providing opportunities in higher education and vocational training, we are building the workforce of tomorrow and helping residents stay in our county at the same time.

#### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

This is a complicated question with systemic implications. Today we have half the compliment of police than in most counties our size. Today we have 1.3 police officers for every 1,000 residents. The national average is 2.4 to 2.8 per capita depending on whether the jurisdiction is in an urban or suburban setting. Our police force has a major problem with attrition as 38% of our police are eligible for retirement and we are seeing more and more retire each year (54 have retired just this year and this has been consistent for several years). We are seeing a trend of resignations for multiple reasons which is concerning. All this in a complement of 1,271 officers. We must address these systemic problems and then devise a protocol to meet the needs of residents. We must make these antiemetic incidents hate crimes and stiffen penalties. We must also make it a priority to educate the public on inclusion rather than division. I feel today while we may have come a long way in accepting our racial, ethnic and gender differences. However, there are still subtle undertones which MUST change and must be re-oriented into a culture of one community all subscribing to the interests of our family of residents. Together we may build a better tomorrow!

#### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

We must reduce our reliance on the automobile and move to the electric vehicle with more public charging stations. We must increase ridership on buses and mass transit We must protect air, water, and land and increase the quality of storm water mitigation. Today developers only have to address storm water quality for one (1)

year. In the last two decades we are seeing 5 to 100-year storms. We must address the need for quantity control as our storm sewer infrastructure is aging and in need of upgrades. We must address green building standards to make housing and commercial development more energy-efficient and encourage more incentives for solar energy. Finally, we must address our waste through encouraging more composting from homes and apartments and businesses and by reducing the unrecyclable plastics from the waste stream all the while looking for ways to convert this waste to base elements (natural gas, liquid petroleum, and diesel) which is being studied in many large universities today. And recycling food waste into natural fertilizer which could be used to help agriculture in our Ag reserve

#### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I support women's rights! It is unthinkable for men to believe they understand the lifelong implications when women are forced to make difficult decisions. I will lend my voice against any supreme court decision which hampers a woman's right to choose, a woman's right for freedom, a woman's right to life in the manner she believes is in her best interest and a woman's right to affordable and safe abortions.

#### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

We now have a 6.2-billion-dollar budget. I support any effort that supports public interest. We must be fiscally prudent while being publicly aware of the needs for a community. I will work to make sure nonprofits get the monies they need to meet community demand!

#### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I spoke to this earlier, once we address the systemic problems associated with our police and public safety, I believe there needs to be a policy and protocol to protect all faith-based houses of worship.

### Kristen Mink

Did not submit a response.

### William Montier

Did not submit a response.

### Jeremiah Pope

Did not submit a response.

## DISTRICT 6- Democratic

### Natali Fani Gonzalez



#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

Montgomery County is evolving through demographic shifts, economic realities and technological changes; we need a proven leader to move us forward. I am the only candidate with local government experience, managing and voting

on annual budgets worth millions of dollars while making decisions on transportation infrastructure, land use, and maintenance of parks, trails and athletic fields. I'm known to be a trusted and experienced leader who gets things done and in collaboration with others. I bring local government experience and a strong background on economic opportunities to empower families and businesses. Until recently, I was the Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, the agency that oversees our park system, real estate development and transportation infrastructure. My long-standing voting record reveals my strong commitment to creating vibrant, sustainable, and healthy communities for all. In my tenure, I was a key player in many strategic planning objectives including the Montgomery County Growth and Infrastructure Policy, Veirs Mills Corridor Master Plan, the Aspen Hill Vision Zero study, Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan, Greater Lyttonville Sector Plan, and the Bicycle Master Plan. Furthermore, I am also a successful business owner. I own a policy and communications firm with contracts at the national and regional level. My team manages multi-million dollar contracts to design, build and run public engagement campaigns throughout the country on a variety of issues, including increasing access to early childhood education for all families, affordable housing, reproductive rights, and access to health care for all.

#### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Housing and Economic development: The best way to make our county stronger is to create good paying jobs while cultivating entrepreneurship in every corner of our county; I will support the local businesses that

employ our neighbors and lower barriers to make sure businesses can start and grow in Montgomery County. Furthermore, building on my experience on the Planning Board, I will work hard to make sure that everybody who works here can afford to live here. That means using an array of proven housing solutions to ensure every family has the opportunity to call Montgomery County home. Connectivity, safe streets for all users: Every minute we spend in traffic is a minute away from our families. That's why I will invest in improving our public transportation network for people to walk, bike, roll and drive. I have a strong record on pedestrian safety and public transit, and I would like to continue my efforts engaging county, state and federal officials on providing the funds needed to design communities that are safe for everyone. When we make commuting efficient and safe, we can reduce traffic and give families more time to spend with each other. Education: Children can't learn if they don't have a home, food on the table, or access to the internet. This pandemic has been brutal on our families, particularly low-income families, a significant number living in my district. It is unconscionable that in Montgomery County we have students with no internet access, or without enough bandwidth to join virtual school or do their homework. Now, more than ever, we must invest in education so every child regardless of where they go to school can succeed. I also think that partnering up with the business and non profit sector to close the learning gap is key.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

Public safety is an essential job of our County government. We must build community trust, work on having a strong accountability process, and support and recruit the best officers. We must invest in community crime-prevention programs; increase wages for our police officers as they have one of the lowest wages in the region; fund investigatory police work to prevent and solve serious crimes; and integrate mental health professionals into 911 calls. When I was a Commissioner with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, I was able to win Commission support for the TRUST Act in the Maryland General Assembly, and was also able to arrange for the Montgomery County Chief of Park Police to testify in Annapolis in support. The TRUST Act prohibits law enforcement officers from inquiring about a driver's immigration status during traffic stops. The Commission oversees the Park Police, which plays the same function as Montgomery County Police and other police departments in areas within its jurisdiction. Furthermore, I was also able to have Montgomery Parks Police join the Georgetown Law Center for Innovations in Community Safety's Active Bystanderism for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project. The program prepares police officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention. For a police department to be part of this special training, community groups need to send letters of recommendation, so I contacted local groups like the immigrant rights organization CASA to help us in this regard. Park Police was then accepted for the program and has been receiving regular training. I share these two examples to highlight my track record of building meaningful and respectful relationships with and between our Police department and community members. Finally, I believe that as part of public safety, our society needs to invest in services that directly address underlying issues such as poverty, mental health care, and lack of affordable housing for people to live with dignity.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

Nonprofit organizations play an essential role in every aspect of Montgomery County. My first job out of college was at the immigrant rights nonprofit CASA; they gave me a job that truly fulfilled my life as I was working to empower my community. As a member of the Park and Planning Commission for almost 8 years, I reviewed numerous applications that were spearheaded by nonprofits. For example, Habitat for Humanity came in front of the Planning Board several times with applications to build more affordable housing. Another example, I was the Planning Board Commissioner who made the motion to approve in 2021 Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 21-03, which allows charitable and philanthropic institutions to have kitchens under certain circumstances to prepare food on the premises and distribute it for off-site consumption, but without payment. I recall that during the ZTA 21-03 hearing, among all the speakers in support, we had the Executive Director of Bikur Cholim, and representatives of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Food for Montgomery. My motion, and then vote as Vice Chair of the Planning Board, allowed for this ZTA to go to the County Council, where it was received and moved forward by Councilmember Friedson.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development**

**and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I'm indeed very passionate about creating and preserving healthy and safe housing for people of all income levels and abilities. Our County should be a welcoming one, where young people can afford to live, settle down, and raise a family. Retired residents should be able to afford to stay in the communities where they have contributed so much. My record in Park and Planning, working on over 20 master plans that create housing throughout the County, speaks to my experience and skills. I worked on the Downtown Bethesda sector plan, Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills sector plan, the Aspen Hill minor sector plan that led to the Kaiser Permanent project currently being built behind Home Depot, the Veirs Mill corridor sector plan, and so many others that highlighted building more affordable housing, particularly near transit. Furthermore, as the former Vice Chair of the Planning Board, I have strongly advocated for co-location efforts and creating partnerships between public and private entities to create more housing and amenities for our community. I worked on many projects with the Housing Opportunity Commission and the recreational department to build more housing, as well as the Montgomery Housing Partnership, and many other nonprofits to build more affordable housing.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

We must have robust protection efforts for synagogues and other houses of worship and faith-based agencies, along with public spaces where people gather (Kemp Mill Urban Park and Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy come to mind). This starts with effective partnerships to build trust and share relevant information to protect our community. I fully support County and State funding for security for institutions at particular risk, which certainly includes Jewish communal institutions, and, if elected, will continue to encourage close cooperation between our police agencies and community institutions. Ensuring our law enforcement knows our community, and that the community knows their local law enforcement, is among the most effective ways to improve security for all.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I'm a strong environmentalist who has been featured several times on my environmental efforts by the Audubon Society. I am a certified Climate Change Professional by the National Association of Climate Change Officers: <https://climateofficers.org>, which is the premier professional development organization and cross-sector community of practice for individuals addressing climate change. The membership fosters collaboration with leading edge practitioners, policy makers, climate scientists and researchers to advance solutions and build capacity in addressing climate change. All that to say, I have had the great privilege of getting to know and working with professionals in this area from across the nation, learning about their challenges and how they are dealing with it. I also received the endorsement of the Sierra Club in my race for County Council. On the critical environmental challenges we are facing, including the extreme rains/droughts, I'm looking into doing more in Montgomery County to modernize our water and sewer systems, and push for "green streets" to control stormwater; Copenhagen is a true leader in this era. Also, I advocate looking into San Francisco's efforts to divest from fossil fuels, and Toronto's work to boost energy efficiency.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I believe that we must protect access to safe, legal abortion and reproductive rights. The fact is, abortion is an essential component of women's health care. Like all medical matters, decisions regarding abortion should be made by patients in consultation with their medical practitioner and consistent with their own individual values and faith traditions. Those decisions deserve respect.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

One of the elements that sets me apart from other candidates is that I'm the only one who has worked on County budgets worth millions of dollars. Furthermore, I am a business owner directing regional and national campaigns with multi-million dollar budgets. I know that we must work with the nonprofit sector to move our County forward. And I also know that when we talk about operating dollars, we must rethink how we are providing services in a post-COVID 19 era to ensure

we are efficiently supporting our communities through our vital nonprofit partners. We cannot succeed as a County without a vibrant nonprofit sector, and, as a Councilmember, I look forward to finding ways to grow and strengthen that partnership.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

This question ties with the previous one on protecting our community members against hate-crime. As an immigrant who has been attacked because of where I was born, I feel deeply responsible for ensuring that no member of our community lives in fear. Making sure nonprofits and houses of worship are protected and safe is a responsibility that I fully embraced. My husband is a former United States Marine who was stationed in Israel (Jerusalem and Tel Aviv) for almost 2 years; nowadays he is an Engineer working in the Defense industry. He participated in security details for heads of state including President Clinton, President Bush Sr., Vice President Gore and Secretary of State Albright. I share that to say that on a personal level, from my family's perspective, security for members of our community is paramount.

**Omar Lazo**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I am the best candidate for this position because I have been an advocate for my community for over 20 years. I am the only candidate that has actually been on the ground working for the community and that gives me a per-

spective and trust with the community that is crucial in being able to properly represent the District. I am or have been on the following boards or committees: Board of Trustees for Montgomery College, Wheaton Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee, Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence, Board of Trustees for Montgomery College, Montgomery County Workforce Development Board, President of the, Montgomery County Latino Restaurant Association, Wheaton Arts Parade Board, Board Member, Committee for Montgomery, Board Member Advocating for laws at the state level, Fund for Montgomery, Board Member, Jewish and Latino Business Coalition, Co-Chair, 2nd Vice President of the Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce, appointed to Committees by County Executive Ike Leggett and Marc Elrich, Transition Team member for County Executive Marc Elrich, and many more community volunteer activities including organizing vaccination drives, and help with food insecurity. I name all of these because I have been a representative for years and do all my work completely for free. I do it for the love of my community. I am the most well-rounded candidate with backgrounds in education, environment, affordable housing, economic development, small business, equity, pedestrian safety, and so much more. I have relationships with all the council members and the county executive that will allow me to work with my colleagues to better our county. The 33 years I have living, working and advocating in my district is important when you look for a representative.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

I want to do all that I can to bring more housing and especially affordable housing to the county and my district. There are currently many areas in District 6 slated for redevelopment which include the gateway project at Veirs Mill and University Blvd and also the development of Glenmont. We have to make sure growth is done in an equitable manner and long time residents have the opportunity to continue to live in their neighborhoods. I want to continue to focus on security and pedestrian safety. District 6 is challenged with many state highways running through it. We have many pedestrian deaths every year and the fact that most of it is not walkable leads people going elsewhere. This is a lot of opportunity for economic growth in the area. We must focus our efforts on creating a more welcoming environment where people will want to stay in the area. I am on the Board of workforce development for the county and I am on the board of Trustees for Montgomery College. This puts me in a position to work on bringing high paying jobs to the area. We must focus on training and educating our work force. This also includes up training our older residents for the jobs of the future. We must also make sure that all our residents have access to these programs.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I think we have to have very honest conversations with the police and with our lawmakers. We must get away from the us vs. them mentality. I have had many conversations with many in the police and in general they also believe in accountability. One bad apple makes

the entire bunch look bad. We must make sure that our police officers are well trained and vetted. We must also look at ways to incentivize our own residents to become police officers.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I think public support or partnerships with nonprofits is crucial. Many of these nonprofits have gained the trust of their community members. During the pandemic Salud y Bienestar was created because the black and brown communities were having a hard time gaining access to vaccines. When the county finally gave funds and vaccines to non profits like Mary Center, Proyecto Salud, and so many so many others that were trusted in the community, we quickly became one of the counties with the highest minority vaccination levels in the country. This was also very important with organizations like MANNA and the Upcounty Hub that tackled food insecurity in such a devastating time.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I think we must ensure that we protect the current affordable housing that we have and work diligently to increase the level of affordable housing in our county. We must ensure that future developments have a significant amount of affordable housing units. We must expand our moderately priced dwelling units and also make sure that it is done in an equitable way. Affordable housing should not determine where in the county you live. It should be available county wide. When it comes to teachers, veterans, first responders, government employees, we should seriously considering looking at incentives to keep our residents here in the county. We need to create a pipeline for teachers and first responders so that they can actually live here. That could be a monthly rent subsidy or student loan forgiveness to those that study here and end up working here. At the end of the day the money stays here if they are living here. It's an investment in our residents.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I think we need to offer more protection services which will mean that we need to fill all of the empty job vacancies in the police department. We must look at offering to pay for our graduates continuing education if they decide to take on a police enforcement career. We must also aggressively investigate any hate crimes and ensure that they get the maximum penalty under the law to make sure that any other potential perpetrator will think twice before thinking of committing a hate crime.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

I believe we need to get very aggressive with our Climate Action Plan. We should fast track our public transportation system expansion with Bus Rapid Transit and make sure that our vehicles all switch to electric. I think focusing on our public transportation, bike lanes, etc. will get vehicles off the roads and reduce traffic. Currently I am working with Bethesda Green and One Montgomery Green to get a grant from the Federal Government to create a Sustainable Innovation zone in Wheaton. This will promote green jobs in Wheaton and also work with existing businesses to all adopt green practices.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I 100% believe that only a woman has the right to make choices regarding her body. Access to affordable and safe abortions is also something that must be championed. All of our residents should have access to affordable healthcare in general. I think we should make sure that we work with our trusted community partners to make sure they have the funding to provide all health related services.

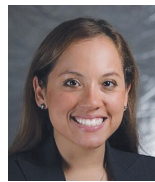
**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I truly am a huge advocate for our community partners. During the pandemic it was the public and our community partners that were the real heroes. For years there has been a struggle to reach the underserved communities. The pandemic showed us the importance to connecting with trusted partners in the community. It made all the difference.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

There has obviously been an increase in hate crimes in the recent years. As long as there is a clear danger to our residents, we must do all to protect them. If funds need to be increased then that what we must do. Recently we had the school massacre in Texas, there were police officers present at both of my children's schools. This is something that community needed, and I believe we need to ensure that all our residents feel safe at home or in public.

## Maricé Morales



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

My experience as a former legislator in the Maryland General Assembly and my work as a criminal defense and immigration attorney has prepared me well for a seat on the Council. I have worked at the federal, state, and local levels

of government, as well as in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Because of this, I know how to build coalitions to advocate for our community's diverse needs and effect change. Also, as a small business owner, tenant, and homeowner, I understand our need to make the county more equitable, from the economy to housing to more. I am also a Board Trustee of the Jewish Council on Aging, Board Trustee of Montgomery College, and a Board Member of Emerge Maryland. I have been recognized by several organizations for my leadership on women's, seniors, and immigrant issues, and as a delegate I authored more than a dozen pieces of legislation ranging from expanding access to healthcare, to protecting the vulnerable to make Maryland a more inclusive state, creating paths of opportunity to prosperity for all.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the county. Climate change threatens the health and wellness of current and future residents of our county. In order to curb our greenhouse gas emissions, I support strategies such as increasing high-density affordable housing near transit centers, which will reduce the number of miles traveled by car as well as increase equity in access to job opportunities. I am committed to sustainable development through actions like applying energy efficiency standards to existing buildings and supporting infrastructure for walking and biking. 2) Ensure safe modes of transportation, particularly around school zones. I am committed to advancing the work around Vision Zero to eliminate all traffic related fatalities, promote our walkable communities with dedicated bike lanes, and further the work that has led to our thriving and diversified local economies. I plan on tackling traffic congestion by implementing behavior changing policy to incentivize carpooling in the short term, and mass transit commuting in the long run. I support projects including BRT on Veirs Mill Rd and the \$110M proposal to invest in bikeable trails. I hope to lead the effort on upgrading our local infrastructure, increasing signage for pedestrian safety, and reducing speed limits on major roads and intersections. 3) Focus on police accountability and provide community solutions for keeping residents safe. I hope to improve police officer recruitment by increasing their salary and benefits, as well as make it easier for them to live in the county so that they can be well-connected to the communities they are serving. I also want to make sure that we crack down on hate crimes, end disparities in treatment by law enforcement, and keep our institutions free of violent behaviors.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

To build healthier communities, it is important to enforce police accountability and make sure that our neighborhoods are being policed fairly and constitutionally. I will work with law enforcement to ensure just measures are taken in public safety administration, I will fight to end disparities in treatment from law enforcement, and I will ensure a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community to guarantee that residents feel safe. I will also invest in breaking cycles of violence in order to protect the younger generations in our communities. I support preserving the programming in place for Montgomery County's at-risk youth, and I will strive to bring police and community members together to identify neighborhood-based solutions. I know the importance of communicating regularly with public safety stakeholders to address violence and its root causes.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

Nonprofit organizations do immeasurable work for our county and they've been integral in lifting up our communities and providing resources for those most

in need. During the pandemic, eight community based organizations partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services and various nonprofits to create Montgomery County Service Consolidation Hubs. My team has helped out with many of these nonprofit organizations, and we have particularly supported efforts run by the Yad Yehuda kosher food pantry in Kemp Mill, which serves thousands of families throughout our District and the greater Washington area. I fully support policies that will offer wrap-around services in places with high need of assistance, and I will make sure to provide full funding for community organizations that are doing this invaluable work.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

First off, I think that any proposal addressing affordable housing policy should make sure to include substantial community feedback. That being said, my approach to housing policy would be to create more affordable housing near high-density, mass transit centers where there is a need. I would also want to utilize already-existing spaces in our county, such as commercial buildings that are vacant now that people are working from home, and convert those spaces into housing units. Additionally, I would implement inclusionary zoning measures to ensure that when new housing projects are being built by developers, a certain percentage of units must be guaranteed to be affordable. In regards to economic development, by generating more affordable housing in this county, we would also ensure that some of our most important public workers like our teachers, first responders, and others, can afford to live here, instead of having to commute across county lines. Not only does this impact economic development because there are more dollars being spent within our local economy and at our small businesses, but there are other benefits as well. For example, if police officers can afford to live in our county instead of commuting from elsewhere to come to work, this increases our capacity for community policing, which would enhance the relationship between law enforcement and residents.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

Antisemitic incidents, along with hate crimes in general, are absolutely abhorrent, and government has principal responsibility to do what it can to stop these from happening. Part of this responsibility includes ensuring that public places of worship like synagogues, as well as faith-based agencies that might be targeted, are secure. I would support funding at the federal level or otherwise to increase security, whether that's upgrading door locks or other avenues that the local congregation is in support of, to ensure that our places of worship can remain both welcoming to all and secure.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Our county must act with unprecedented urgency to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We should do this by improving public transit and decreasing the ubiquity of cars, as 40% of Montgomery County's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. I voted several times while in Annapolis to fund the Purple Line and BRT. I currently support the \$110 million dollar proposal, \$55 million of which would go to Wheaton, for bike lanes to make our communities more walkable. If we work to make our public transit more accessible and affordable without reducing quality, this means less cars on roads, and less emissions. Additionally, during my time as a delegate, I was supportive of legislation that held publicly financed projects accountable for not abiding by the environmental conditions required by their agreement, which I would support at the county level as well. The county could reward developers with longer contracts or tax incentives if they abide by environmental regulations, which would not only incentivize them to do business with the county but would increase our ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The county can also play a role in increasing our reliance on alternative energy sources to fossil fuels, such as solar energy. For example, using solar installations on county buildings, while also expanding access to solar energy through tax incentives for businesses and local financing options for residents, would reduce much of the greenhouse gas emissions that come from our buildings. Finally, the county needs to be working to include the public in these climate action plans, as well as having a racial justice and social equity lens to make sure that communities that have historically suffered the worst consequences of climate change are being protected.

### What are your policies regarding

### reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

Guaranteeing reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortion has been and will continue to be a top priority of mine. During my time in the Maryland House of Delegates, I worked with MD NARAL to champion these exact issues. From the Women's Rally we created together on the steps of the State House to advocate for reproductive justice, to sponsoring legislation to expand reproductive healthcare coverage, I am proud of the work we accomplished together. I have also sponsored bills that provide year-long dispensing & coverage of contraceptives, provide community-based school funding for reproductive healthcare in MCPs, provide support for pregnant and parenting students, and bills that fight back against discrimination in employment due to pregnancy or childbirth. I have been a champion for women's rights for over a decade, and I am more determined than ever to fight to protect any policy that ensures reproductive freedom and access to abortion in this country.

### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

I support increasing operating funds for nonprofit organizations, especially for organizations that are providing services for those most in need. In the Jewish community, welfare agencies like JCA and JSSA are doing incredible work that takes the burden off of government agencies, and they need to be recognized and supported.

### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

I support increasing operating funds for security for nonprofits/houses of worship. We have seen an alarming rise in incidents occurring at religious institutions, and it is imperative that we ensure people can pray and partake in day-to-day functions in peace. As a delegate, I worked with local leaders in the Jewish community to increase security for neighbors and synagogues, and I would do the same on the council if elected.

## Brit Siman-Tov

Did not submit a response.

## Steve Solomon



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. I think we do a lot of things well, but can do some a little better. I am a moderate Democrat. I believe that the County Council needs more people with common sense

ideas to make sure we spend our \$6.3 billion budget in the most efficient way possible and in a way that helps the most people.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1. Improve infrastructure - we have too many roads and sidewalks that are in poor condition. 2. Economic Development - we need to make it easier for small businesses to start and to succeed in Montgomery County. That begins with simplifying our permitting process and cutting the red tape so that it's easier for businesses to operate here. There were many empty storefronts and empty floors in office buildings even before Covid and there are many more now. 3. Put solar panels on school roofs. The county does a lot of things well for the environment, but we should have solar panels on more county buildings. They'll pay for themselves over time in energy savings and will help make us more energy efficient.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I am running in District 6 where we have had a rise in crime. While knocking on doors, I have talked to many residents who put crime and safety as one of their top issues. And at the same time, we don't have enough police officers. Literally, we have 70 fewer officers than we are budgeted for because they are retiring faster than we are recruiting new officers. Morale for officers is low which is why we aren't recruiting the amount that we need. We need more community involvement with officers. More coffee with a cop events, and more officers interacting with the public at community events, rec centers, etc.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

Nonprofits are the backbone of this county. The government cannot operate in a vacuum. Public/private partnerships are vital. I served on our council

advisory grants board and saw firsthand the work of hundreds of nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County and how many people's lives they impacted.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

We need to continue to prioritize building new housing around transit. That has to include more MPDU units so that all new construction contains affordable housing. It is still expensive to live in most parts of Montgomery County. I have visited most of the fire houses in the county and was surprised to learn that most of the firefighters lived in other counties due to the cost of housing here and that they only have to commute in 2-3 times per week.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

As this country continues to get more polarized as far as political extremes, bigotry and hate will continue to survive. I grew up here and went to Jewish Day School (CESJDS) in Rockville and rarely saw a hint of anti-Semitism. It is sad that in modern times this still continues. I live in Kemp Mill where there are several synagogues within a small area. Security is vital here on high holidays and Shabbos.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

Montgomery County has many great climate initiatives. We have a Climate Action Plan in place to reduce greenhouse gases. We have building regulations as well as transportation goals that will reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

Regardless of any national or supreme court changes, we are lucky to be in Maryland where access to abortions will remain and reproductive freedom will continue to exist.

### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

As mentioned above, I served on our council grants advisory board, where we gave over \$6 million to 300+ nonprofits. There are also special appropriations and budgets for specific nonprofits such as those that fight hate crimes and protect religious freedom.

### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

Security for houses of worship are vital. We've seen two incidents in the news in the last week - the Buffalo shooting and now the Texas elementary school shooting that defy any sanity or logic. Many times I can't help but think of the Tree of Life Pittsburgh synagogue shooting and as a Kemp Mill resident I am always concerned with the safety of people while they are in their houses of worship

## Christa Tichy



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I feel I am the best candidate for this position because I have the skills needed to provide training programs, and jobs. Once residents are able to hold a fair wage paying job they are on their way to succeed in Montgomery County.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Remove plastic bags and replace them with county manufactured paper bags lined with wax from our own bee farms. Design and build tiny houses to meet our affordable housing needs and provide incentives for police officers, first responders and teachers to keep the enrollment constant.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

I support bills to repeal the new 'use of force' laws and increase de-escalation training. I recommend one-time signing bonuses. Further citizen engagement with law enforcement through community programs.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

I believe there should be public support. We divide

the amount of public support by the total support. If it more than 1/3 from public support then it is a public charity.

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

Rental assistance vouchers should be doubled from 7441 to 14882 housing choice vouchers. Find a means to encourage potential landlords to rent. Revisit the annual allowance of .4% increase annually and lessen eviction periods of one year to a reasonable period of time. 4 months. Teachers, first responders and government employees should receive incentives and sign on bonuses. establish salary increases for them to be able to live in this county.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

Community engagement, behavioral health awareness post covid and acceptance of universal equality of ALL people.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Require Energy Star efficiency-rated appliances, contractor installed EV chargers in all new homes. Replace single use plastics with recycled paper from our local upcoming paper mill. Train residents needing jobs to be small business owners and support bee farms to raise honey and produce wax to line our paper bags for reuse. Make History in Montgomery County!!!! I advocate pilot programs for Tiny Houses. Support horse farms ad preserve our local parks such as Wheaton Stables.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I do not feel that abortion is a means of birth control. I support the right to choose. Safe access to birth control clinics is necessary with therapy to prevent illegal abortions and protect the lives and rights of women.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I support community investment through social impact programs to strengthen social cohesion.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I believe houses of worship need to demonstrate a level of participation and attendance at functions to be eligible for funding dollars. As our economy improves through the labor force, Houses of Worship will gain and maintain security.

**Marc Trullinger**

Did not submit a response.

**Vicki Vergagni**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

- Track record of success and innovation in community management, residential construction, storm water management, turnaround management; - Unwavering commitment to create real solutions to real problems; - Willingness to

stand tall, unwillingness to be intimidated; - Visionary approach that incorporates the bottom line; - Frank, collaborative, approachable personality; - Critical thinking; and - Work ethic. I also have knowledge of County agencies, key industries in the local economy, public policy experience, management expertise, and strong communications skills.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Economic Development: I would support a program through which the County would identify its subject matter strongholds and then aggressively pursue entities in those subject matter areas. For example, health care is one of the County's subject matter strongholds. The County should seek Federal agencies with that mission, as well as trade associations and professional societies in that area. We should be particularly competitive by enticing them to hold their annual meetings in the County, and then offer radical hospitality. Give attendees opportunities to see Montgomery County by identifying local features that would be of interest to an organization that would be interested in relocating. Support that approach with laws and regulations that encourage a high quality of life via reasonable costs

of doing business (e.g., minimized regulations; lower taxes; reasonably priced energy; accessible, sought-after locations; leasing options with high value), affordable housing, quality schools, qualified employees, ample shopping, cultural activities, as well as a clean environment and the availability of medical services. It also would be helpful to conduct research that evaluates existing business and identifies opportunities for new or expanded business in the Up County and East County that could inform the goal of attracting and keeping businesses in the County. When Montgomery County does what it does best, it can compete with other jurisdictions. Affordable Owned Housing: Eliminate the 'commercial' umbrella classification of owned multi-family dwellings so that fees charged for government services and financial assistance provided to individual owners of all types of homes are treated fairly. Schools: It is critical that the County offer quality education for all learning levels so that every student has the opportunity to make his/her way in the world. However, the school system cannot solve all of our education issues: it takes a village. The County has exceptional physical plants and teachers, successful parents, and students with unlimited potential. To capitalize on this trifecta of educational opportunity, I would encourage mentoring programs so that students have not only a successful role model who looks like them, but also has opportunities to interact with those individuals on a regular basis. This means reaching out into the community to involve not only parents, but individuals who are successful in the larger community.

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I think the first step to address rising crime is to determine why it is rising, and then to address the root causes of crime. I suspect that there is a whole range of social and economic issues that are driving this trend; thus, I would anticipate creating a comprehensive preventive (and remedial) approach that addresses every one of the drivers. The form that takes with regard to policies, procedures, and programming remains to be seen. What we are doing now certainly is not working. What the County has done to address policing issues is contrary to known "best practices" to assure employee morale. Morale is paramount to employee engagement, motivation and performance. Morale supports communication, collaboration, and teamwork. Morale is critical to employee productivity. Morale is essential to employee retention. Clearly most of the County's police force is composed of decent, hard-working individuals who are trying to do the right thing. However, it is difficult for them to maintain morale when those whose lives are not on the line are taking potshots at them on a regular basis. Policing is a dangerous profession; we should invest heavily in training officers, and then we should demand excellence. When an officer fails to live up to the standard, he/she must be dealt with accordingly. One bad apple hurts the reputation of the entire force. We must have transparent disciplinary measures so that the public has respect for those who are risking their lives every day for our safety as they routinely attend to domestic violence, car stops, etc.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I support public funding for and partnerships with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County that have demonstrated value for the services provided to the community. It is precisely these organizations that have taken the lead on a wide range of basic human needs: food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical. They also have worked selflessly to save other members of the animal kingdom as well as our environment. When there has been any local, state, Federal or international tragedy, these organizations have been a primary source of support. More than any other country, America is the land of volunteerism; and Montgomery County in particular benefits immensely from the work of individual volunteers as well as that of formal organizations of volunteers. How can one not support those who represent the best in us?

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

The County continues to focus almost solely on affordable rental housing instead of finding workable solutions so that those with lower and middle incomes can secure affordable owned housing to build legacy wealth - and not end up as seniors with housing costs that continue to increase as their incomes precipitously decrease. It also is unconscionable that those with the lowest incomes who can afford to purchase a home in the County usually live in an older master-metered-for-utilities community that pays multiple times what a

traditional single-family homeowner pays for the same government service, and that these same homeowners are unable to secure financial assistance that traditional homeowners can access because government programs do not serve those residents without individual utility bills. These same disenfranchised homeowners cannot get rebates from programs into which they mandatorily pay because their homes do not have 'commercial' components (e.g., elevators, walk-in refrigerators) that those programs fund. The playing field must be leveled. To attract and retain economic development, employers want to see a work force with individuals at all income levels living in the County. And those who serve a community certainly are worthy of living in it; and if they wish, they should have affordable owned housing options.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I would continue current policies and practices; I also would support increases in funding based on upticks in concerns about security.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

The field of environmental justice is a gold mine for identifying sources of greenhouse gas emissions by locality -- and then creating solutions to ameliorate the issues. It would be beneficial to conduct a County-wide study to map emissions. The County also should provide grants or long-term, low-interest loans to both commercial and residential facilities for solar panels, solar water heating, small-scale wind generation, fuel cells powered by natural gas or renewable hydrogen and geothermal energy where appropriate. Even doing smaller things such as reducing emissions from public vehicles such as idling buses in bus barns that concentrates pollution, idling police and other government vehicles County-wide, properly timing traffic lights to limit idling of individual vehicles would reduce emissions. With regard to individual consumers (not just those with individual utility bills), the County could offer discounts on a wide range of products such as native trees and flowers, energy star appliances, tankless water heaters, interior solar lights, LED light bulbs, solar panels. It also would be helpful if the County did public service programs that promoted home energy audits, the use of renewable energy, the purchase of green tags and carbon offsets, 3-degree adjustments to thermostats, the proper use of electronics, washing of clothing in cold or warm water, line-drying of clothes, use of non-toxic household products, etc.

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I support reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions.

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I support increased operating dollars for nonprofit agencies that have demonstrated value for the services provided to the community.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I support increased funding of security operations for nonprofits/houses of worship -- and for public and religious schools.

**DISTRICT 7 - Democratic**

**Andrew Einsmann**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I have a passion to make things better for the community I live in. I am a people person who knows how to get things done, ask the right questions, problem solve and make wise decisions.

**What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

Move the Bus Depot at Shady Grove while increasing subsidized houses for Police, Fire, and Teachers Curb the Violent Crime including minimizing school Violence There are so many so it is hard to talk about only three. We have a lot of transit issues among other things but I am big in improving the environment through recycling, green energy, and composting

**Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

First public safety, we need stricter gun laws. We need to increase the penalties for illegal gun possessions and

sales. We need to figure out how to teach better conflict resolution skills to male teenage males. We need to increase dialogue between the population so nobody is treated with a bias. Police reform, accountability, and change of culture will take some time. We need to have a fully staffed Police Department that is engaged within the community that they serve.

**What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

We need to work with our nonprofit organizations and provide some supplemental funding for them especially if they are doing governmental tasks better than we could with the same amount of money

**What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

One thing I support is a \$5000 stipend for employees who will continue to live in this county. These are the people public teachers, fire persons, and police. I think there is a lot of value in having them live here. I also believe we should raise the workforce housing levels to 25% of each development. If the developer feels like this is too much and they can not make a profit then they will have to 'how their' cards and prove that this change would be a financial burden and we will work together to find a mutually beneficial solution.

**How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I think we need to get to the heart of the program. I believe the program is hatred do to a lack of cultural understandings and knowledge of who people are. Just like after 9-11, all of a sudden Mosques were being attacked but we all know it is a select few Muslims that were abroad that plane and they have been radicalized. We need to, in the public schools, do a better job of educationing against radicalization. Have an introductory religion class about inclusivity and promoting peace and understanding from people of all walks of life.

**The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

No Candidate in my race at any forum is discussing climate change. I am the only one who feels it is an issue. We need solar panels on buildings, public park parking lots if possible, houses, and of course fields where we can do both solar and ag farming. We need to education most of the county still with regards to composting and everybody should be composting their food waste. We need to work together to find a solution for the incinerator. There needs to be an environmentally good way to dispose of the trash that we can not recycle in any other way

**What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

No comment

**What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

It all depends on the amount we bring in and the services provided by the houses of worship. I am agreeing able for more funding if they are doing more services and more efficient services for the community.

**What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

I believe if there is a potential threat we should help prove more support. Do I believe polie should be at all houses of worship all the time? No. But if there is a credible threat then maybe. After Roe Vs Wade last week, at my church we were warned of potential protest but I do not think there should have been security provided. I do not know the current amount of funding so I can not comment on whether or not it needs to be increased.

**Paul Geller**



**Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

My experience, track record of success, and long-standing leadership in the community, clearly set me apart in the District 7 race. Have been devoting myself for the last decade to making our community a better place to live, work and

learn in. Have done this as a full-time Community Advocate and former PTA leader at the local, county, and state levels. Working with all our County Councilmem-

bers, I have made sure developers are paying their fair share for funding school construction; advocating for the Education First Budget of 2016...a watershed investment in our Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS); and ensuring that seniors would not have their property taxes increased. I also have been there for the environment. In 2017, was one of a handful of residents to successfully advocate for the state to shut down the Dickerson Coal Power Plant. Have cultivated and built relationships with local, county, state, and federal officials, as well as community leaders, and residents to form a network of people who share their issues of interest with me. What also sets me apart is my extensive knowledge of MCPS, and my experience working with them and the Board of Education (BOE). This December we will be losing our two most experienced MCPS Councilmembers, Craig Rice and Nancy Navarro. I am the only candidate running in any County Council race who has experience crafting the MCPS budget from the ground up, something I did as president of the 40,000+ member Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MC-CPTA). MCPS will receive \$2.9 billion this next year, traditionally half the county's operating budget. As your Councilmember, I will hold MCPS accountable for properly investing these funds in our kids and making sure our schools earn a reputation as universally being among the best in the nation.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

My goal in running for the County Council is simple: I want to make District 7, and all of Montgomery County, a better place to live, work and learn in. 1) Live. Intelligent traffic signals are a must to analyze road usage and adjust automatically. The incessant stop-go caused by poorly timed traffic signals countywide is an abomination, especially on main roads like 97/Georgia Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, 355, Shady Grove Road, and many others. It wastes time, causes more air pollution from extra idling, is awful on fuel economy, can cause traffic to stop when there is no cross traffic in the area, and increases driver frustration and red light running. If traffic is going too fast, the signals can adapt and cause more frequent stops. Also improving sidewalks, parks, community recreation centers and libraries; and investing in affordable and workforce housing, and the arts. 2) Work. Will encourage existing companies to grow here, entrepreneurs to start new ones, and world class companies to open offices here. Cutting permitting red tape and making inspections universally consistent among different inspectors will be a must. Making sure the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation adds a significant small business focus to its offerings. 3) Learn. We need to purchase solar panels for all MCPS buildings that have access to the sun. This will save significant operating budget funds that can be put towards hiring more teachers, school counselors, or offering more extra curricular activities. The solar panels also provide a unique opportunity to teach students about power generation, usage, and conservation. Have seen these in action at elementary schools in Arlington and Baltimore. Also will work with MCPS to let teachers teach; make sure our schools nurture the intellectual curiosity of our students and not test them ad nauseam.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

This is one of the major issues of our time. We need to be paying our Montgomery County Police Department officers well and providing them with the training they need to succeed. Training in de-escalation techniques, basic psychology, interacting with individuals with developmental disabilities, and more. I am also looking forward to following the work of the Police Accountability Board. They will be at the forefront of suggesting what is needed to balance the needs for public safety with police oversight and reform. The CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) program provides an excellent resource for providing individuals with the interventions they need during a mental health crisis. Instead of being arrested by a police officer, mental health professionals can be dispatched to work with people who may just need mental health help and would ordinarily be funneled through the criminal justice system. My goal is to also reach out to the MCPD, and go along with officers on occasion during their shifts to see things from all sides and to build rapport. On the flip side, I plan to frequently visit all the communities within District 7 to address their concerns. I want people in the District 7 community to feel comfortable in reaching out to me and my office about any issues or questions they may have.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

These nonprofits provide critical services that county government just cannot handle. They were also invaluable during the pandemic to mobilize people and resources in innovative and nimble ways to meet the changing circumstances and needs over the course of

the pandemic. Nonprofits serve as the bridge between the county DHHS and residents. I have been supportive of the annual council grants given to nonprofit organizations for many years. That said, I find it ridiculous that so many of the annual grant recipients have to file anew year after year. Many recurring grants to long-time, proven partners have now been included in the base budget. The new Office of Grants Management has much streamlining ahead of them. I also am a big believer in the power of matching grants. Should nonprofits be converted to perpetual recipients of grants, I would like to see some or all of the money provided by the county be matched by private donors or contributors. The county has finite resources, and by having a partnership with individuals and companies to help out, we can spread our existing resources out even more effectively and efficiently.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

We need mixed income communities where market rate housing is mixed with subsidized housing, MPDUs, and below market rate housing. The Housing Opportunities Commission and organizations such as Montgomery Housing Partnership address this to a certain extent. However this housing must be mixed, and not concentrated as has been done in parts of the City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village. It was well intentioned, however it was tough on area businesses and led to food deserts where supermarkets literally closed up shop. You need to support the businesses by having people nearby with disposable income. And we need to make sure the affordability measures take into account inflation. One concept is to work with WMATA to create housing on Metro owned properties such as the Shady Grove Metro Station. With the input of the community, it is possible to transform the acres of parking lots into apartments and other housing types benefiting a significant number of future residents thanks to the multiple transportation options this facility provides. Parking could be situated below ground. We could encourage developers to propose housing units at all price points, including market rate and workforce housing, MPDUs, as well as below market rate offerings. This redevelopment would provide thousands of people with housing, new job opportunities, and easy access to public transportation. This same model can be duplicated along Metro's Red Line at other stations with similar amounts of property. We must consider additional incentives at a county level for seniors as well as first responders, health care workers, and teachers. As District 7 Councilmember, this would be an area of focus for my office. Having seniors and these invaluable workers live in the communities in which they serve provides a benefit to the county as a whole, and shows we care about them.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

We need to have a regular, ongoing dialogue between the leaders of the faith community, the County Executive, the County Council, and the Montgomery County Police Department to address issues and concerns as they arise in the community. This would be an extension of the Faith Community Advisory Council. We need open and direct lines of communication between these individuals and organizations. We also need to be sure our MCPD personnel have the capability to adapt to safety concerns. This may require recruiting, hiring and training more officers; possibly include consideration of developing a specific Faith Community Police Group; or providing specialized training through a Public Safety Training Academy specifically tailored to the needs of the faith community. I will also encourage our Police Chief to join me at faith group services, something I regularly have done for years in order to get to know individual communities better. This helps build rapport and trust. It also provides me with a continuation of the experience I had growing up in a diverse community in New York. Friends would invite one another to attend each other's religious services not to convert each other, rather so we had a better understanding of one another.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

For years now, I have been the leading advocate for solar panels to be placed on every Montgomery County Public Schools building wherever practical. As a Councilmember, I will see to it that this is accomplished in a timely manner. I will also pursue MCPS upgrading their buildings to similar energy efficiency standards that we are asking of all non-governmental property owners. Net Zero Energy schools are highly efficient and generate all their own electricity. The cost to build these technological wonders is now commensu-

rate with traditional construction, saves money, and helps the environment. There is no one way out of a problem: electric vehicles and mass transit are not the only solutions to greenhouse gas emissions. Addressing embodied carbon and moving toward carbon neutral construction also must happen. Fortunately, on the county level, we now have the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) and the adoption of the International Building Code; on the state level, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 as the motivators to build better. We need to mandate that MCPS provide BEPS data, including those times when systems are not functioning perfectly so we know actual use. "Anomalies" have a tendency to disappear off reports. We need to move to electric and eventually hydrogen powered school buses. An innovative concept could be a surcharge on commercial diesel vehicles or energy offset sales used to fund green initiatives in the county, such as converting combustion engines or making older buildings more energy efficient, perhaps through the Green Bank. We can also do more in food reclamation and composting. Recycling material into other uses such as plastic into roads, and other innovations are common around the world. We should look beyond our own boundaries for ideas. Let's work on a real circular economy.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

All women must have full reproductive freedom and access to services they need.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

One of the best investments the County Council makes is with our non-profit partners who deliver outstanding services to our residents. Groups such as Montgomery Housing Partners, Community Reach of Montgomery County, The ARC, and so many others help our residents not just survive, they thrive. In 2016, as the co-architect of the advocacy behind the Education First Budget, my goal was to increase funding to MCPS as well as to the many non-profits in the community. I researched the county's operating budget thoroughly, figured out the twenty organizations that received the largest amount of grant funding from the county, and reached out to each of their directors, many of whom I knew, to include one simple line in their testimony, "Make the pie bigger." A dozen did so, and with each repetition, I could see the smiles and looks of disbelief on the faces of our Councilmembers as they quickly figured out what was going on and who was behind it all. To fund a similar increased investment in nonprofit agencies, we need to grow our tax base. I plan on doing this by putting a laser sharp focus on making sure the county, and the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, work with our chambers of commerce, business leaders, elected officials, and community members to transform Montgomery County into the ultimate place to do business. Today we have millions of square feet of vacant office space. We will grow high-paying, professional jobs right here in Montgomery County. Will work with existing businesses in the county to encourage them to grow here, create an environment that is conducive for entrepreneurs to establish new businesses here, and work to recruit world class companies to open offices here.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

If needed, I am in support of increasing funding for security for nonprofits/houses of worship in the form of an increased, specially trained MCPD presence. One of the key jobs of our excellent MCPD is to protect our residents, businesses, and communities. This certainly applies to protecting our houses of worship throughout the county. As your Councilmember, I will sit down with religious leaders in District 7 at least once a year, and as the need arises, to discuss issues such as security, and figure out how the county can provide assistance both financially and in terms of increased patrols by MCPD to the houses of worship in our district.

## **Sharif Hidayat**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

I was a Police Officer for over 20 Years. As a community services officer, I handled a plethora of quality of life issues that came from either the County Executive Office or District County Council Office. I was able to work with and collaborate with many government entities, non-profit organizations, Civic Association, and HOAs to find a solution and get results for our community members. My background and experience with working with so many people from so many walks of life makes me best suited for this position.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1. Public Safety: Our community is seeing the effects of increased crime. As a former Police Officer, I believe I am the most qualified candidate to address public safety issues. 2. Protection of the Agricultural Reserve 3. Reducing Traffic congestion by investing in Smart Technologies that will reduce wait times at traffic lights.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

As a former police officer, I experienced police reform and can honestly say that the reforms that were made are making our community less safe. Officers are not being supported to do their jobs. Our lawmakers are insistent on turning criminals into victims while simultaneously vilifying police officers. There is always room for improvement on how law enforcement can do their job. However, the focus should be on holding criminals accountable and not ways to handcuff the police from doing their job.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

Nonprofit organizations are vital to the health of any community. We have several nonprofit organization in Montgomery County that does some really incredible work for the community. I support partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

There are too many people being denied affordable housing because the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County has not addressed the extensive fraud, waste and abuse being conducted by their clients. As a police officer, I have investigated several clients that were clients of HOC and they were only poor on paper and claimed to be single destitute mothers. Meanwhile, the clients were married, employed and driving BMW's and Mercedes Benz convertibles. Most if not all teachers, first responders or government employees don't even qualify for these programs. My focus as a councilman would be to ensure affordable housing programs are not being abused.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I am the only candidate to receive the prestigious Shield Award from the Anti Defamation League for solving a Hate Crime. I am also the only candidate in District 7 that responded to several of the Synagogues in District 7 to provide them with security assessments of their buildings and trained them on how to respond to an active shooter event. [https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail\\_Pol.aspx?Item\\_ID=28528](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail_Pol.aspx?Item_ID=28528)

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

As a County Councilman for District 7, I plan on working with all of the public sector unions to maximize the tele-work option for our county employees. The pandemic taught us all that there are several office jobs that do not require driving to work when all they would be doing is sitting in front of a computer anyway. If they can do the exact same work from home, I believe we will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce traffic all at the same time.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

Women should have unfettered access to health care if she decides to have an abortion. I strongly feel that a woman's right to choose is a fundamental right. The government should stay out of that decision making process.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

If a non-profit is demonstrating that it is attending to the needs of the community why would anyone have a problem with more spending? Of course, I would take the position that more spending on non-profit organizations is justified.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Operating dollars should be available for security for nonprofits/houses of worship. I would support increasing funding.

## Dawn Luedtke



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I believe I am the best candidate for this position because out of all of the candidates running, I have the broadest base of policy knowledge and expertise across multiple content areas and demonstrated experience and leadership within

government operations at the State level. I have also worked in the private sector as an attorney, as well as for a national IT corporation in its corporate and federal markets. Within the public sector, I have worked for the Tobacco Products Liability Project in Boston, for the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, and started my love of public service as a congressional intern for the Hon. Robert E. Andrews (D1, NJ). I currently work in the Executive Branch of State government, but I previously served in the Judicial Branch as a law clerk to the Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia on the Maryland Court of Appeals. And I have served in numerous leadership positions with non-profit arts organizations (Board of Directors - Olney Theatre; Vice President Board of Directors - Baltimore Concert Opera; Board of Directors Transformation Theatre Inc., LLC; Board of Directors Bruce Montgomery Foundation for the Arts), alumni organizations (Member - Alumni Class Leadership Council; Class President; Chair of the Alumni Interviewing Program for Central Maryland - all for the University of Pennsylvania), and with the Arthritis Foundation.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

Regardless of which impact area (education, public safety, economic development, etc.), the three things that I want to accomplish across all sectors of my work are: 1. Enhanced/increased trust in our local government operations; 2. Streamlined efficiency in local government operations; and 3. As a fiduciary of taxpayer dollars, making sure that we are maximizing value for expenditures.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

The statewide police reform legislation of 2021 does not unduly restrict law enforcement operations. In fact, it encourages community policing models, includes specific provisions for officers to engage in continuing education and receive mental & behavioral health care, and makes it an affirmative obligation for officers to speak up when another has engaged in misconduct to create greater transparency and corrective actions. This is vital to increasing public trust. And public trust is vital to law enforcement being able to cultivate safer communities and do their jobs with greater efficacy. Public safety initiatives must be supported in a prevention model and our public safety professionals and community members need to better understand the role of police within the community, and that law enforcement is not present just for emergencies only. I fully support the Police Accountability Act of 2021, and also fully support our law enforcement and other public safety professionals as we navigate making systemic changes at a time of escalating criminal conduct and increased mental & behavioral health needs without adequate resources. My goal is to determine how best to use the resources we do have in place creatively and collaboratively across public safety and public health disciplines to reduce the escalating criminal conduct (and within that I am including increased domestic and family violence).

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

State, local and federal partnerships with nonprofit organizations are vital to achieving positive outcomes for community residents. This may be done through increased structural collaboration, through grant opportunities to local nonprofits to implement and deliver programs in areas where those entities already have strong connections, etc.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

I support tax credits and home purchasing credits in terms of the fees associated with the purchase of a new home for our teachers, veterans, first responders, and other government employees so that they can establish and maintain roots within the communities that they serve. There are existing federal programs and other State-level support programs that can be combined with county initiatives to put together the best possible incentives - but it needs to be done in a way that is accessible and readily apparent. We need more low

and middle income housing within the community to support those who are beginning their careers and allow them to build equity through ownership.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

I have worked on hate bias and hate crimes issues for the past five years at the State level, and the trends just in what is reported (and we know that it is underreported for a host of reasons) is profoundly disturbing. I also have spent years working with our State's Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group and chaired its former Prevention Subcommittee. In Maryland, the top two targeted groups are always African Americans (#1) and Jewish (#2). I view the approach to these issues as multifaceted. It is important to have appropriate safety and security strategies in place for our houses of worship during significant holy days, as well as for other community-based events or festivals where particular groups of racial or ethnic minorities may be present and vulnerable. It also involves significant community outreach and education on hate bias and hate crimes, and as a related topic the First Amendment. I've been training law enforcement officers on this issue for several years, and I routinely speak on this topic here in Maryland and through national presentations. I am extremely passionate about this work and about its importance to the health, safety and vitality of our community and pledge to continue to deliver on that as a member of the Council.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

We must find ways to accelerate decarbonization and at the same time implement mitigation strategies for the types of climate change impacts that have already occurred in order to minimize impact on our residents. This requires everyone to get rid of the mentality of 'if' it will happen and prepare for 'when' a disaster will happen. This requires a thorough assessment and analysis of our existing infrastructure, what deferred maintenance has happened and at what price, and development of policies and strategies to not just put a band-aid on a surgical wound but to address it head on in a lasting fashion that will withstand battle for years to come.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

Health care is a human right. Women's health care, for a developed nation like ours, is underfunded and overlooked. Abortion care and reproductive health care is health care no different than any other type of physical or mental health care. Therefore, I view abortion care as a human right and a decision to be made by the patient and her physician based upon medical advice.

### What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?

Where it is warranted based on need, services provided/delivered to residents, and potential for increased access to services where private entities and local government cannot fill the void, then absolutely. All avenues should be explored for creating the best possible outcome.

### What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?

I know that one of the agencies within the State that I currently counsel has a grant program for childcare centers at risk of hate crimes. It covers specific areas of need and must be used to supplement not supplant existing funding available to the entity. As threats escalate, we have to work collaboratively with our affected communities to make sure that as a local government we are supporting the needs of the religious communities to worship freely without fear, and engage in proactive planning for events and programs, or as situations change (recognizing that this is a very fluid situation). We need to make sure we are providing adequate law enforcement coverage directly to the houses of worship/nonprofits when needed. If that requires increased funding/operating dollars that's one way to handle that, but I am open to other possibilities because I believe we need to prepare for long-term sustainable solutions on this front.

## Jacqueline Manger



### Why are you the best candidate for this position?

I have a unique set of skills from my success in both the public and private sectors. I have lived in this county for close to 20 years, raised my children here, grown businesses here, and served my community in many ways. We are

missing the voice of business as an engine for good in

our community, as a driver of jobs and growth and as a means to solve problems for our community. As a small business owner, former financial services executive and startup CEO, current educator and administrator at the University of Maryland and an advocate for the arts, I know from personal experience how Montgomery County works and the steps needed to improve it. I teach my students in entrepreneurship, how to create, build and launch a successful business. Small (and micro) businesses are the lifeblood of a thriving economy. I am a pragmatic progressive, and with my extensive experience in finance and accounting, I am much better equipped to prioritize and make difficult decisions about funding and budgets than my competitors. I have been a member of the extended public safety family in this community for decades and will be a leader that is supportive of the positive role of police in a civil and just society, balancing strong support for the men and women of law enforcement with criminal justice reform.

### What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?

1. Economic Growth: Ensure we have an agile, measurable, inclusive economic growth plan required to make critical investments and address our county needs. We need more jobs. We must improve how the county government serves business and create a climate for business growth and success. We must address how we approach development, affordable housing and investment in our transportation infrastructure in order to better grow and bring in jobs to the county. 2. Strengthening Schools: The quality of our schools directly affects the community's ability to attract quality employers and therefore, well-paying jobs. A focus on quality public education must include Pre-K, wraparound services and post-secondary education, including vocational workforce development. 3. Representation: District 7 has not been represented adequately at the county level for a long time. In office, I can provide consistent and transparent communication, a responsive ear to the challenges facing the community and a strong voice to the people of District 7 who have felt neglected by leadership in the past. Democracy does not work without true representation in leadership.

### Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?

We must support law enforcement with elected leadership that values their contributions to a safe and civil society; elected leadership that values their role in keeping the community safe from our schools to our streets. Too many officials in Montgomery County think that bashing the police is how to achieve reform. The best and most lasting reform is done in partnership with the police. We need to change the narrative in our county it we want to keep and recruit a talented and diverse police workforce. Morale is very low and recruitment is challenging. We have to increase pay to be more competitive in our region and we should explore incentives that will help our public safety professionals live in the communities that they serve. Yes, we must hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct or abuse of the public trust. By doing so, confidence in the police will increase and this will be a positive factor for morale. Police must be a respected, visible and trusted part of the community in order to keep us safe. They must earn and maintain that trust.

### What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?

Meaningful, mutually beneficial private and public sector partnerships are essential for a thriving Montgomery County. As leaders, we must encourage and embrace the power of collaboration. Nonprofit and for profit organizations often deliver services more efficiently than the government and we should embrace and scale relationships that benefit our communities with improved services and improved outcomes.

### What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?

Long term housing affordability depends on good paying jobs. Examined through a social equity lens, it is difficult to say that the county is doing enough in this realm. The issue is complicated and it begins with inequity in education, which leads to a wealth gap in employment and that contributes to the housing affordability issue. While we can and should examine programs to make housing more affordable we also need to examine and improve on structural issues as well. That being said, every member of our community is not going to have the same income because they do

different jobs, so we need a variety of housing. I support mechanisms to create more affordable housing in the transit-accessible areas outlined in Thrive 2050 and want to create incentives to get this done. Housing inequity is not the sole responsibility of developers and we can't expect them to solve the problem alone. Financing projects like these in the public market will make them impossible so we have to be creative. There are already breaks built into the tax structure to benefit first-time homebuyers, but they benefit all first-time buyers so perhaps we need to also examine this through an equity lens. I would be open to looking at this. I also think we should examine programs that encourage more teachers and public safety personnel to live in the communities where they work. We must also examine zoning that limits rehabilitation or reuse of properties, incentivize property owners to designate units for affordable housing, use county land for smart growth development, and support master planning and building with an emphasis on zoning that favors multifamily and density. We can successfully leverage the Affordable Housing Opportunities Fund.

### How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?

We must come together as a community and publicly condemn the hate. Recognizing that many hate crimes go unreported, as a matter of regular practice I would have open, frequent and transparent communication with all faith leaders encouraging victims to report any incidents of hate. I would partner with law enforcement - they are our public safety experts. Law enforcement needs to be respected and supported for their role in a civil and just society and we need to change the dialogue about police in our county so that they feel like trusted partners to the community as we come together to address hate crimes and bias incidents. Finally, I would use my platform of elected office to promote civility and civil discourse. We may not be able to eliminate those that hate in our society, but we need to change the narrative that has allowed those filled with hate to think it is appropriate to come out of the shadows.

### The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

As Maryland's most populous county, Montgomery County has a responsibility to protect the health of people and the environment. A major way to minimize the greenhouse gas emissions is to incentivize zoning and land uses which allow people to live where they work. Much of Montgomery County's workforce is priced out of living in the county and is burdened with long, inefficient commutes. I propose practical solutions to protecting our planet without hindering development, which is why I have been endorsed by leading environmental group, Sierra Club. Our approach to affordable housing and improving our transportation infrastructure can also address our impact on the environment. We should support investment in solar with our eye on job creation, this means enabling legislation to allow meaningful solar development. Reducing GHG emissions is one of the most impactful ways to deal with climate change and also presents the biggest challenges. This takes big actions like zoning and building code changes and a strategic and regular investment in a greener transportation infrastructure. Having new BEPS is fine, but we must also couple this with an expansion of the Green Bank to offset the cost to building owners who should not have to pay 100% of the cost to implement the standards. The reality is if we require building owners to do this and provide absolutely no funding or rebates, the building owners will pass along the costs. In many cases this will affect those least able to bear the burden of the cost. On the transportation front I think BRT and equitable access to public transportation are imperatives to get cars off roads. Finally, public education will be required to ensure all residents understand the importance of fighting climate change and so that more individuals make changes in behavior that will positively affect outcomes.

### What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?

All people deserve access to quality health care, including abortion, and the privacy to make autonomous reproductive choices. I was inspired by my mother to fight for every pregnant persons' right to access abortion. I am devastated by the current challenges to reproductive freedom across the county. We must spread awareness that reproductive justice means the human right to control your sexuality, gender, work and reproduction. Were Roe v. Wade to be overturned it would disproportionately affect the BIPOC and low-income communities. We cannot let this happen.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I've successfully advocated at the federal, state and local level for public dollars to nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County. As a professor of entrepreneurship and managing director of the Ed Snider Center at the University of Maryland, finding funds for needed programs and services is an active part of my job. I support providing operating dollars for non-profit agencies through public-private partnerships where non-profits provide real services to county residents rather than our government providing those same services. This is especially useful in areas where our government lacks expertise and/or a community understanding for how to best serve the citizen clients. I also support small grants that build capacity and help with capital investments for our county non-profits that provide much needed services to residents.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

Everyone in Montgomery County deserves to feel safe, whether at a synagogue, Planned Parenthood office or a Mosque. We have not yet provided that to everyone in our county. To achieve our shared goal of safer schools and religious institutions, I will work alongside law enforcement and the nonprofit and religious communities to assess safety as it stands today and explore necessary and effective safety measures. The county investment in providing this security should primarily be an investment in the recruitment and training of a best practices police department that is able to keep these institutions safe as part of their regular community policing initiatives.

## **Paul Schwartz**



### **Why are you the best candidate for this position?**

My extensive experience at the federal, state and local levels of government will be a great asset to the County Council and the constituents of District 7. As a fed for more than 30 years, I served as Director of Trade Enforcement

for U.S. Customs, moved to Department of Homeland Security to help integrate the more than 26 disparate federal agencies, and, after Katrina, was asked to join FEMA where it was my responsibility to work with state and local governments to identify vulnerabilities and assets prior to the next disaster rather than during. Why this is important is because achieving "buy-in" will be a very handy skill on the Council for our community. My experience in developing legislation and the associated regulations AND the programs designed to implement and oversee that legislation as well as my experience in the appropriations process will also be a great asset as a member of the County Council. Moreover, I get things done as evidenced by the recent passage of the Retirement Tax Reduction Act after years of relentlessly advocating for tax relief

as the Chair of NARFE's State Legislation Committee. This was a critical step forward in enabling our retirees to retire in place and not have to retire to more tax friendly states such as Pennsylvania and Delaware where they take their tax money, buying power and community service with them. The co-sponsors of this bill reached out to me to help develop the bipartisan legislation that was passed unanimously by both houses of the state legislature and signed by the governor. I was also a weekly columnist for the Sentinel where I wrote about many local issues including Court Watch Montgomery regarding domestic violence and Scotland Storm dealing with after school tutoring for some of our poorer student. I also covered the White House and Congress rather extensively.

### **What are the 3 things that you want to accomplish during your tenure in office?**

1) Safety. Safety includes school safety, gun safety and community safety including the rise in hate crimes. This is a nationwide problem and Montgomery County is not immune from the threat of crime, including and, maybe, especially hate crimes. We have to be better prepared to make sure that the next Squirrel Hill, El Paso Walmart, Mother Emmanuel Church, or, more recently, Buffalo, New York does not happen here. This means taking precautions to protect our houses of worship, for example. I am committed to making our community safer and that means building a stronger relationship between our police and the community including schools, houses of worship and the community in general and will require building trust and I will work toward that end. 2) Environment. We must find a balance between development and protecting the environment. This includes maintaining the character of our communities when we seek to further develop them. It also requires ensuring that the environment is protected to prevent against the threat of overdevelopment as occurred in Houston, Texas resulting in massive flooding. I am committed to achieving that balance with a great deal of community input. 3) Equity. This includes tax fairness. We must stem the tide of senior migration to more tax friendly states, as just one example. This also applies to businesses. When seniors retire, or businesses move, elsewhere, they take their tax money, their buying power and their community service with them to states like Pennsylvania, or, in the case of businesses, Virginia. Maryland is ranked dead last as the worst place in which to retire. This must change. Equity also means income inequality. We must do a better job of providing opportunity for our students who don't have the financial means of going to college but still need a career path to good paying jobs. We must focus on better and more extensive vocational training and provide a career path via intern programs with the private sector for jobs upon graduation.

### **Crime is rising around the US and the State of Maryland. How do you plan to balance the need for public safety and police reform?**

I am a strong supporter of housing subsidies for our police so that we can better compete with surrounding

areas for purposes of recruitment and attract higher quality candidates. This also includes ensuring that we provide a prevailing wage for our police. I believe that having our police live in the communities in which they serve facilitates the building of the relationships with community members so critical to effective policing. Paying a fair wage helps not only in recruitment but also morale. Establishing the Police Accountability Board is a positive step in establishing the trust needed between police and the community and will, thereby, improve community relations. However, it is essential that this board be given the needed authority to to effectively address police misconduct. I also believe that the members of our police force should undergo thorough screening on a regular basis to identify those not suited for police work. This includes connecting with other law enforcement entities to identify any past history that would make an individual unsuitable for police work. I think the term "defunding the police" has been disastrous and we must begin the process of undoing the damage it created when it broad brushed dedicated police with the so-called "bad apples". I also believe that we need to make better use of surveillance equipment to better surveille the areas of our community to more expeditiously identify crimes being committed in our community and enable our police to respond more quickly. I also support greater use of cameras regarding traffic violations to free up our police to focus more on the more violent crimes.

### **What are your views regarding public support for or partnership with nonprofit organizations in Montgomery County?**

I support it as building relationships with all members of the community makes the community stronger.

### **What is your affordable housing policy and how will it affect economic development and the ability of people who serve the community (teachers veterans first responders and other government employees) to reside in that community?**

I have been a strong proponent of building more housing, including affordable housing, near transportation hubs. This has the added benefit of reducing reliance on cars and thereby reduces traffic congestion. Leveraging county owned property would seem to make it a bit easier to achieve the goal of affordable housing at transportation hubs. The County Council must pave the way and building affordable housing on county owned property will bring good-paying jobs and economic activity to such areas with Metro stations such as Forest Glen, Shady Grove and White Flint to name just a few. Housing subsidies to help attract and keep key members of our community such as police and teachers serves to help build the relationships with the community that are essential to the jobs in which they serve.

### **How would you address the security concerns of our local synagogues and other houses of worship and faith based agencies?**

I have been a strong proponent of building more

housing, including affordable housing, near transportation hubs. This has the added benefit of reducing reliance on cars and thereby reduces traffic congestion. Leveraging county owned property would seem to make it a bit easier to achieve the goal of affordable housing at transportation hubs. The County Council must pave the way and building affordable housing on county owned property will bring good-paying jobs and economic activity to such areas with Metro stations such as Forest Glen, Shady Grove and White Flint to name just a few. Housing subsidies to help attract and keep key members of our community such as police and teachers serves to help build the relationships with the community that are essential to the jobs in which they serve.

### **The DMV is experiencing the deleterious impacts of the climate crisis. What should the County be doing to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?**

Reduce carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy and instituting code requirements as appropriate; transition to emissions-free public transportation by converting to electric buses; expand the availability of electric charging stations to transition the public to electric vehicles; protecting and expanding forests, wetlands, grasslands, the tree canopy and all green spaces by conserving land including protecting the AG Reserve. I also support the opt-out program instead of the opt-in current program regarding conversion to solar energy.

### **What are your policies regarding reproductive freedom and access to affordable and safe abortions?**

I strongly support a woman's right to make any and all decisions regarding her own body. Fortunately, Maryland will not likely be impacted by the unjustifiable overturning of more than 50 years of court precedent by the current politically motivated Supreme Court. If there is any threat to protecting a woman's right to choose in Maryland, I will be at the forefront of protecting that right in whatever way I can as both a member of the Council and as a community voice.

### **What is your position on increasing more operating dollars for nonprofit agencies?**

I'm for it. Nonprofit agencies play a significant role in our community and should be supported as much as possible.

### **What is your position regarding increasing funding -specifically operating dollars - for security for nonprofits/houses of worship?**

As previously mentioned, we must do everything we can to make sure that the next Squirrel Hill, El Paso Walmart, Mother Emmanuel Church or Buffalo, New York does not come to Montgomery County, Maryland. This includes taking the necessary steps to regarding security and that includes funding.

## **Ben Wikner**

Did not submit a response.

