



Baltimore City *Voters' Guide* 2020 General Election

About this *Voters' Guide*

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare for participation in the general election. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.**

All candidates were asked to provide biographical information and to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for the same office were asked identical questions. Responses from candidates who will appear on the ballot are printed exactly as submitted to the LWV. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. Presidential candidates' responses were limited to 750 characters. All other candidates' responses were limited to 400 characters and any additional material was cut off at that point. If a candidate did not respond by the print deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

Additional information on the candidates is available at www.VOTE411.org, which has any updates received after the deadline. Candidate websites provide additional biographical and policy information. If the candidate submitted a campaign website, it is listed under her/his name.

The League assumes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

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Voting by Mail

Applications for Ballots

Every voter on the active voter registration list was mailed an application for a mail-in/absentee ballot at the end of August. If you did not receive an application, you should check your voter registration information at

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call your Board of Elections.

The most common reason for being placed in the inactive voter list is moving without notifying the Board of Elections of your new address, so that election mail sent to you is returned to the Board of Elections. If you have questions, call the Board of Elections.

You may request a mail-in ballot by completing the application form or by applying online at https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html.

Applications for ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Receiving Ballots via the Postal Service or the Internet

Maryland offers internet delivery of ballots and an online ballot marking tool. This option is compatible with adaptive technology. It enables those with disabilities to access the internet and should be reserved as much as possible for these voters.

We strongly encourage the large majority of voters to request a paper ballot. Ballots delivered by internet and printed on a home printer cannot be scanned by the scanners in use for elections. When such home-printed ballots are received at the Board of Elections, they must be copied onto standard ballots for scanning. This delays the counting of ballots.

Ballots delivered via the internet must be printed and returned to the Board of Elections. They cannot be emailed.

Returning Ballots

The envelope for returning your ballot will have a place for your signature. Your ballot cannot be counted if you do not sign and date the envelope where indicated. If there is more than one voter in your household, be careful not to mix ballots and envelopes.

You have several options for returning your ballot:

1. **All ballots must be returned or be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.**
2. **U.S. Mail:** Your ballot packet will include a postage paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. You may also use a private delivery service, but your ballot still must be sent no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.
3. **Ballot drop boxes:** Drop boxes will be available at the locations listed in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations beginning at the date indicated and available until 8 p.m. on Election Day. A list of these locations will also come with your ballot. Board of Elections staff will empty the drop boxes multiple times each day.
4. **Vote centers:** Ballots may be returned inside any vote center during Early Voting or on Election Day.
5. **Board of Elections:** Ballots may be returned to the Board of Elections.

Note: *If you request a mail-in ballot, you will not be permitted to cast an ordinary ballot during Early Voting or on Election Day. You will be provided a provisional ballot that will be counted only if your absentee ballot is not received.*

Voting in Person

Early Voting: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., October 26-November 2

Early voting will be available at designated vote centers; these locations are listed in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations. Voters may use any Early Vote Center in their county. Voter registration will be available, as will marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and/or marking a paper ballot. Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail and voters who cannot use the ballot they received should also go to an Early Voting Center.

Election Day: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3

Due to Covid-19 precautions, the usual precinct polling places will not be open for the November 3, 2020 general election. Instead, voters can use any Vote Center in their

county. Voter registration will be available, as will marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and/or marking a paper ballot. Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail and voters who cannot use the ballot they received should also go to a Vote Center. **On Election Day, voters may use any of the sites used for Early Voting or any of the additional Vote Centers listed in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations.**

Drop Box and Voting Locations

Drop Box Locations

September 28-30 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School 413, 2201 Pinewood Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21214
- Baltimore City Board of Elections, 417 E Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD, 21202
- Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21215
- Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
- Cross Country @ Northwestern School 247, 6900 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21215
- Edmondson High School 400, 501 N Athol Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21229
- Holabird Academy 229, 1500 Imla Street, Baltimore, MD, 21224
- Morgan State University, Hurt Gymnasium, 1700 E Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD, 21251
- Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries, 6000 Radecke Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21206
- New Era Academy, 2700 Seabury Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21225
- Oriole Park @ Camden Yards, 333 W Camden Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201
- Paul Laurence Dunbar High School 414, 1400 Orleans Street, Baltimore, MD, 21231
- Public Safety Training Center, 3500 W Northern Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21215
- Reach! Partnership School 341, 2555 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD, 21218
- Southeast Anchor Library, 3601 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21224

October 15-17 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Academy for College and Career Exploration School 427, 1300 W 36th Street, Baltimore, MD, 21211
- Barclay Elem School 54, 2900 Barclay Street, Baltimore, MD, 21218
- Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove 239, 1201 Cambria Street, Baltimore, MD, 21225
- Carver Vocational-Technical High School 454, 2201 Presstman Street, Baltimore, MD, 21216
- Dickey Hill Elementary/Middle School 201, 5025 Dickey Hill Road, Baltimore, MD, 21207
- Digital Harbor High School 416, 1100 Coving Street, Baltimore, MD 21230
- Forest Park High School 406, 3701 Eldorado Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21207
- Frederick Douglas High School 450, 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21217
- Hamilton Elementary School 236, 6101 Old Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214
- Hampden Elementary School 55, 3608 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211
- Leith Walk Elementary/Mid School 245, 5915 Glennor Road, Baltimore, MD, 21239
- Patterson High School 405, 100 Kane Street, Baltimore, MD, 21224
- Pimlico Elementary School 223, 4849 Pimlico Road, Baltimore, MD 21215
- Renaissance Academy 433, 1301 McCulloh Street, Baltimore, MD, 21217
- Violetville Elementary/Middle School 226, 1207 Pine Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21229

- Western High School 407, 4600 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD, 21209

Early Voting Sites

7 a.m. - 8 p.m., October 26-November 2

- Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), Gymnasium, 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21215
- Cross Country @ Northwestern School 247, 6900 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21215
- Edmondson High School 400, 501 N Athol Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21229
- Morgan State University, Hurt Gymnasium, 1700 E Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD, 21251
- Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries, 6000 Radecke Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21206
- New Era Academy, 2700 Seabury Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21225
- Oriole Park @ Camden Yards, Dempsey Restaurant, 333 W Camden Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201
- Southeast Anchor Library, 3601 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21224

Additional Voting Sites on Election Day

7 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3

- Academy for College and Career Exploration School 427, 1300 W 36th Street, Baltimore, MD, 21211
- Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School 413, 2201 Pinewood Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21214
- Barclay Elem School 54, 2900 Barclay Street, Baltimore, MD, 21218
- Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove 239, 1201 Cambria Street, Baltimore, MD, 21225
- Carver Vocational-Technical High School 454, 2201 Presstman Street, Baltimore, MD, 21216
- Dickey Hill Elementary/Middle School 201, 5025 Dickey Hill Road, Baltimore, MD, 21207
- Digital Harbor High School 416, 1100 Covington Street, Baltimore, MD, 21230
- Forest Park High School 406, 3701 Eldorado Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21207
- Holabird Academy 229, 1500 Imla Street, Baltimore, MD, 21224
- Leith Walk Elementary/Mid School 245, 5915 Glennor Road, Baltimore, MD, 21239
- Patterson High School 405, 100 Kane Street, Baltimore, MD, 21224
- Paul Laurence Dunbar High School 414, 1400 Orleans Street, Baltimore, MD, 21231
- Reach! Partnership School 341, 2555 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD, 21218
- Renaissance Academy 433, 1301 McCulloh Street, Baltimore, MD, 21217
- Violetville Elementary/Middle School 226, 1207 Pine Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21229
- Western High School 407, 4600 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD, 21209

President and Vice President of the United States

DUTIES: The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two terms.

BASE SALARY: \$400,000 per year.

Criteria for Participation in VOTE411.org: All presidential candidates who will appear on Maryland's ballot are listed. Additional write-in candidates appear on the Maryland State Board of Elections website

(https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/general_candidates/index.html). The

League of Women Voters of the United States, through the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), established criteria to determine which candidates to invite to respond to questions for the Voters' Guide.

Candidates qualified for invitations from LWVEF to provide responses to specific questions if they met the following criteria:

- 1) The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President
- 2) The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication
- 3) The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes

Additional information on the candidates may be available on [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org).

Issues

COVID-19 RECOVERY: What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

TOP PRIORITY: What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

RACIAL INJUSTICE: How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

IMMIGRATION: What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

HEALTHCARE: What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

Candidates

Vote for 1 pair

Donald. J. Trump and Michael Pence

Republican

Campaign Website: www.donaldjtrump.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/DonaldTrump

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/realdonaldtrump

Campaign Instagram: instagram.com/realdonaldtrump

No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Democrat

Campaign Website: <http://joebiden.com/>

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/joebiden/>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/JoeBiden

Campaign Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/>

Campaign YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/joebiden>

COVID-19 RECOVERY: It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

TOP PRIORITY: Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

RACIAL INJUSTICE: America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

IMMIGRATION: My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our

laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

HEALTHCARE: This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

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Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Spike Cohen

Libertarian

Campaign Website: www.Jo20.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/JoJorgensen2020

Campaign Twitter: @Jorgensen4Potus

This candidate did not meet the criteria for an invitation to participate.

Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker

Green

Campaign Website: www.howiehawkins.us

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/runhowierun2020

Campaign Twitter: @howiehawkins

This candidate did not meet the criteria for an invitation to participate.

Jerome M. Segal and John de Graaf

Bread and Roses

Campaign Website: www.segalforpresident.org

This candidate did not meet the criteria for an invitation to participate.

Representative in Congress

Duties: Representatives make laws along with the members of the Senate, and may conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Representatives can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

Term: Two years

Base Salary: \$174,000

How Elected: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2010 Census.

Website: www.house.gov

Issues

Goals: Why are you running for this office?

Immigration: What, if anything, would you change regarding immigration policy?

Health Care: Would you vote to continue the Affordable Care Act as it is, expand it, or eliminate it? Please explain.

Environment: What should be the federal government's role in addressing national and global environmental concerns?

Gun Safety: What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?

Economy: How would you address the growing income gap in our society?

Discrimination: What initiatives would you propose to address bias based on race, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, or disability?

Student Loans: What actions would you support to reduce burdensome student loan debt?

Congressional District 2

Candidates

Vote for 1

Johnny Ray Salling

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.dutchforcongress.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/dutchforcongress>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/call_me_dutch

Campaign Email: godutch@dutchforcongress.com

Campaign Phone: (410) 252-2505

Goals: Congress needs people, like me, working across the aisle and focusing on the basics like good schools, safe streets and decent jobs. I want to keep focusing on national security as we prepare for the threats of tomorrow, including cyber-attacks and nuclear weapons. I also want to continue my work on the Appropriations Committee, ensuring that Maryland and its communities get their fair share.

Immigration: I'd stop the President from raiding our military facilities and families to build the wasteful border wall. I'd end family separation and move immigrants out of detention facilities as quickly as possible by hiring more federal judges to reduce the courts backlog. I'll work to pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides both sensible border security and a reasonable path to citizenship.

Health Care: We must continue the consumer protections provided by the ACA, but strengthen it by adding a public option that creates competition and lowers prices. We can also allow Americans to buy into Medicare at a younger age. We also must address soaring prescription drug prices that are generating record profits for the pharmaceutical industry at the expense of Americans in need of life-saving medicines.

Environment: Since the U.S. is one of the world's leading polluters, the federal government must take the lead in addressing environmental concerns like climate change. We must re-join the Paris Treaty and work toward carbon neutrality. As an Appropriator, I support full funding for programs such as the Chesapeake Bay Program, which benefits our economy, creates jobs and preserves our natural heritage.

Gun Safety: I support banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, background checks for gun and ammo purchases, no-fly-no-buy and tougher penalties for straw purchases. People convicted of certain hate crimes, as well as domestic abusers, should not be allowed to buy guns. I have introduced legislation to stop the cycle of gun violence by providing hospital-based interventions for recovering victims.

Economy: The middle class needs to make more money, which is why I support extending tax cuts for the working class, as well as a minimum wage increase. Congress needs to address paid leave and advance robust "Buy American" provisions as well as workers' rights to help strengthen the working class. I support investing in infrastructure to create jobs, as well as tax incentives for small business.

Discrimination: There is no place in our society for discrimination of any kind. That's why I support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, as well as passing The Equality Act and the Disability Integration Act once and for all.

Student Loans: I support legislation to lower student loan interest rates and allow students to refinance their student loans when rates decline. I support expanding federal loan forgiveness programs for students who choose certain in-demand careers, like teachers and nurses, and capping the dollar amount students must repay each month. We also need to increase the maximum value and number of Pell Grants.

Congressional District 3

Candidates

Vote for 1

Charles Anthony
Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

John Sarbanes
Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.johnsarbanes.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/jsarbanes>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/JohnSarbanes

Campaign Email: info@johnsarbanes.com

Campaign Phone: (410) 847-9556

Goals: I am running to strengthen our democracy by ending the influence of big money in politics, protecting the right to vote and ensuring that public officials work for the public interest. To make progress on the most pressing issues we face, we first need a political system that responds to the many, not the money. Too many Americans feel shut out by Washington; we need to bring them back in.

Immigration: I oppose the Trump Administration's immigration policies including zero tolerance/family separation, restricting asylum, ICE operating in sensitive locations, the public charge rule and efforts to end DACA and TPS, among others. We need an immigration policy that protects economic interests while providing a path to citizenship and a humane, legal framework for people to come to the United States.

Health Care: I am a strong supporter of the ACA and believe that we must stop and reverse years of Republican sabotage, which has increased costs and limited access to health care. I also believe we can expand on the ACA's successes, including by passing a public option or a single-payer, Medicare for All system – both of which I support – and passing H.R. 3 to reduce the costs of prescription drugs.

Environment: Climate change is the existential crisis of our day. The federal government must lead the effort to reach net-zero carbon emissions that includes a just transition for all communities, including our most vulnerable. We must rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, reverse course on Trump's deregulatory agenda, and promote green technology that moves the nation towards a healthier, sustainable future.

Gun Safety: I have voted to close loopholes and strengthen our background check system. I also support an assault weapons ban, banning large capacity magazines, a national system for extreme-risk protection orders, mandatory safe gun storage, raising the purchasing age for certain firearms and prohibiting persons convicted of hate crimes from buying guns.

Economy: The key to addressing income inequality is fixing our democracy so that economic power does not equal political power. We need to reverse decades of tax cuts for the wealthy and big business and reinvest those revenues in our people – including by reducing the financial burden of health care, housing and education. We must focus on economic justice and building wealth in marginalized communities.

Discrimination: I strongly support important civil rights legislation like the Equality Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, the End Racial Profiling Act and the NO BAN Act. I also support building on criminal justice reforms like the First Step Act. I authored H.R. 1, which would expand access to the ballot, particularly for racial minorities and persons with disabilities, who face additional barriers to voting.

Student Loans: I authored the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to provide debt relief for individuals who work in public service. I introduced the What You Can Do For Your Country Act, which strengthens PSLF and ensures its proper administration by the Department of Education. I oppose the Trump Administration's attacks on student borrowers and believe we must better protect them from predatory lenders.

Congressional District 7

Candidates

Vote for 1

Kimberly Klacik

Republican Party

Campaign Website: <http://KimKForCongress.com>

Campaign Facebook: [http://Facebook.com/@Kimberly Klacik](http://Facebook.com/@KimberlyKlacik)

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/KimKBaltimore

Campaign Email: info@kimkforcongress.com

Goals: No response received by deadline.

Immigration: Fix the legal immigration procedures and loopholes to make it more beneficial to US workers and legal immigrants. The current immigration policy exploits the workers for the benefit of large business and any change would have to focus on

Health Care: The current Affordable Care Act is not serving the needs of the customers and needs to be either revamped or eliminated.

Environment: No response received by deadline.

Gun Safety: Baltimore City has one of the highest homicide rates in the country and has extensive gun control currently in place. I would work to provide opportunities for those who are committing the violence.

Economy: No response received by deadline.

Discrimination: Enforcement of violations of bias would be a top priority. If there is bias

Student Loans: I would revisit the law that student loans could not be discharged in bankruptcy.

Kweisi Mfume

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.mfumeforcongress.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/@mfumeforcongress>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/mfume4congress

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

Campaign Email: info@mfumeforcongress.com

Campaign Phone: (410) 357-1212

Goals: I believe the 7th Congressional District and our country face crucial crossroads ahead. I also believe it is important to always replace leadership with leadership. We cannot miss the opportunity to send the strongest representation to Congress now. Having served in this position for 10 years, I am the only candidate who is proven, tested, and ready to go to work on day one - with seniority.

Immigration: Immigration built America and it continues to be the heartbeat of the American economy. I will fight to require humane immigration policies at our borders so that we will not have to relive the tragedies of the last few years, e.g., policies that put

people in cages or permanently divided children from their parents. In addition, I will work to create a sensible pathway to citizenship.

Health Care: Healthcare is a right. I will vote to expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA), beginning with restoring the protections stripped from the ACA by this Administration. My healthcare vision includes expanded healthcare access for low-income Americans, a public health insurance model like Medicare, enhanced private and/or employer-sponsored insurance options, and a tax credit to offset premium costs.

Environment: The federal government should be the chief architect and chief enforcer of existing and forward-looking environmental policies. It should implement environmental policies that incentivize responsible personal choices, motivate corporations to make better choices (by carrot, by stick or both), steer us towards an increasingly green economy, and establish America as a global environmental leader.

Gun Safety: Reinstating an assault weapons ban and adopting a national background check system focused on psychological competency are two key gun safety policies I will pursue in Congress. In 1994, I helped pass an assault weapons ban that lasted 10 years. Congress has not had the will to reinstate the ban once it was lifted. I will fight to change that if I earn the honor of serving the People in Congress.

Economy: I will work to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour today, with that figure indexed to inflation. I will also work to revisit the most recent tax cuts for the highest earning Americans so that we can invest that money into educating our children and expanding skills training opportunities. The policy focus is investing in opportunities that prepare people to earn more money.

Discrimination: It sometimes appears as if our society faces more biases today than we did just a few years ago. The federal government must ensure existing anti-discrimination laws are fully enforced by the people and institutions created to do so. Next, our nation must acknowledge one form of bigotry is just as harmful as any other form of bigotry so our laws must align to reflect that truth.

Student Loans: The student loan crisis may cripple our future economy. We must act now to ensure a financially stable future workforce. I support allowing students to lower their student loan rates through refinancing, loan forgiveness programs for graduates working in certain public interest fields with incomes below a certain level, and in the most extreme cases full debt forgiveness.

Baltimore City Mayor

Duties: Baltimore City has a "strong mayor" form of government. The mayor's power is derived from several sources:

- The Mayor's Office, as part of the Executive Branch, is responsible for administering the laws and providing municipal services and functions.
- The mayor makes hundreds of appointments, including the heads of most city agencies.
- The mayor may veto bills passed by the city council and a three-fourths vote of the city council is necessary to override the veto.
- The mayor appoints two of the five members of the Board of Estimates. (The Board of Estimates is responsible for developing and executing the fiscal policy of the city. Each year it submits an annual budget called the Ordinance of Estimates to the City Council).

Annual Salary: \$171,635

Term: 4 year term. Limited to two terms.

How Elected: Citywide.

Issues

Background: What in your background and experience qualifies you to be Mayor of Baltimore City?

Crime: What specific plans would you propose to reduce homicides and violent crime in Baltimore?

Education: How would you fund public education in Baltimore, while assuring the quality and ongoing structural maintenance of school buildings?

Health: What strategies do you have to address continued health disparities in Baltimore? What will you do to make sure that the Health Department has the resources it needs to serve all residents?

Transportation: What are your plans and priorities for improving public transportation to better serve City residents and employers?

Climate and Environment: As we face climate change and sea level rise, what would be your priorities to increase sustainable practices by the city and to increase the city's resilience?

Housing: What strategies do you propose to remove or rehabilitate vacant buildings and provide affordable housing?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Shannon Wright

Republican Party

Campaign Website: <http://wrightformaryland.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://@wrightforBaltimore>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/PSW4U

Campaign Email: info@wrightforbaltimore.com

Campaign Phone: (240) 242-5467

Background: I have 10+ years of experience with policy analysis with community implications, issue-specific policy advocacy combined with successful strategy and management.

Crime: We must first get to the root of the problem and then: 1. Require the Baltimore City Police Department to undergo a full certification and accreditation process. 2. Institute a military-style grid block plan for the city. 3. Institute community policing satellites in community centers around the city and a city-wide restorative justice initiative with all partners and stakeholders at the table

Education: This is not simply putting more money into the school system so it can be wasted. We first would need to evaluate what we are spending on and whether it is working or not. 1. Analysis of problems 2. Design for addressing the problem 3. Develop the strategy 4. Implement the strategy with regular assessments of outcomes and measures.

Health: We have had a long-standing problem in the city with inequity regarding the city's culpability in the detrimental determinants of health and general well-being in our city. We must address issues of lead, food insecurity and the impact of trauma at a minimum. The folks that live here are the heartbeat of the city and right now our leadership is failing to care for that heart.

Transportation: There needs to a comprehensive review of our transportation system particular to where the jobs are in a reasonable and safe manner. I absolutely support enhanced investment in transportation infrastructure provided we have a thorough analysis and it is structured in the best interest of all the residents.

Climate and Environment: I will address the environment, climate justice, and the climate crisis locally, including not only reducing/eliminating greenhouse gas emissions within the city but also protecting the people and infrastructure from the environmental impact. I would look to see all available data so that we can properly address the problems and create a real plan with measurable outcomes.

Housing: We would get our abandoned properties back on the books using a Habit for Humanity low-income homeownership model. By doing this we are removing blight, creating jobs and increasing a sense of pride and ownership in our communities through redevelopment without gentrification. This will also inevitably lower crime rates throughout the city.

Brandon M. Scott

Democratic Party

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Background: As the son of a union worker and as a community-based legislator, I know what families need: good jobs and a trustworthy leader with a vision. This election is a choice between the status quo, and someone who knows how to navigate city government while moving our great city forward.

Crime: My top priorities from my comprehensive crime plan are: targeting repeat violent gun offenders, removing illegal guns and ammunition from the streets, and declaring a public health crisis to holistically address the root causes of violent crime while fully implementing the Consent Decree.

Education: I was the first official to fully commit to funding Kirwan. I also called on the Mayor to spend our City's \$34 million FY19 surplus on school infrastructure upgrades. As Mayor, I am committed to fully and responsibly funding Kirwan through smarter spending, re-allocating funds, and strategic public-private partnerships.

Health: All my work is equity-based. That's why I introduced legislation requiring city agencies to do the same. Baltimore's race and class-based health disparities are unacceptable and must be addressed. As Mayor, I will ensure the Health Department is better resourced through increased reliance on our state, federal, and institutional partners.

Transportation: As Mayor I will: make transportation infrastructure upgrades through an equity lens, prioritizing dedicated bus lanes, shared mobility lanes, and expanded circulator service to unserved neighborhoods, particularly in the Black Butterfly. I also intend to explore direct transportation options to get people from Baltimore neighborhoods to job centers like BWI.

Climate and Environment: First, I will make the Sustainability Commission a cabinet level position; this will require agencies to adopt sustainable policies, instead of merely making recommendations. I will declare a state of climate emergency, and require DPW to fully implement a zero waste plan.

Housing: As Mayor, I will reverse decades of disinvestment from our Black and historically redlined neighborhoods, while ensuring that underrepresented residents have a seat at the table. My top priorities are: re-allocating resources to the Housing Department's low-income home rehab programs as well as fully funding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

David Harding

Working Party

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Background: I was one of the volunteers who petitioned to put Working Class Party on the ballot in Maryland. It is important to give working people a voice in elections. 14,000 people agreed, by signing our petitions. I have worked for years at the Maryland Health Dept and was a Bethlehem steelworker. I was active in the unions.

Crime: Crime is one aspect of living in this greedy capitalist society, with its racism, unemployment, inequality, under-funding of public education and lack of social services. When working people are organized to form a different society, we will also find solutions to all kinds of crime.

Education: Working families are now forced to choose between two bad choices. If they send their children into schools for face-to-face instruction, children may become infected by coronavirus. If they leave their children at home for online instruction, then they often lack the right equipment or risk their own jobs. School funding remains inequitable thanks to state and federal policies.

Health: One thing this pandemic shows is that health care decisions are still made on the basis of profit, which allows our population to sicken and die unnecessarily. Nurses lack enough PPE; aides go to work daily risking their lives. The disparities in health care spotlighted by Covid-19 have long existed because we have a for-profit health care system.

Transportation: Politicians from the two big parties find funds for contractors and developers they favor, while roads, bridges, sewers, water systems and public transportation for working class areas crumble. The taxes we pay should fix the infrastructure and go toward transportation systems we need. To get what is needed working people will have to make a fight, not just in Baltimore.

Climate and Environment: If working people had a political party that expressed the needs of the population, it would look at air pollution, water pollution and land pollution. These problems are caused by choices corporations make, and they not addressed at the level of one city. But why have Democrats and Republicans ignored these problems for decades? That's another reason I am trying to build a Working Class Party.

Housing: Until working people can make the whole society work for everyone, instead of for a wealthy few, we won't have the housing we need. That's why I'm trying to help build Working Class Party.

Bob Wallace

Unaffiliated Candidate

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Campaign Email: bob@wallace4mayor.com

Background: As a Baltimore native who grew up in Cherry Hill, I feel strongly about enacting positive change in our community. I'm a business owner and accomplished entrepreneur, not a career politician. Through economic empowerment and innovative solutions, I will bring real change to Baltimore.

Crime: My plan to reduce the crime and violence in Baltimore involves improving accountability and reliability within the BPD. I will work to create long-lasting solutions by expanding trauma-responsive mental health and drug addiction resources and revitalizing the CeaseFire program. Implementing my 100,000 jobs creation plan will provide newfound opportunities to residents in underserved communities.

Education: I will work with elected officials to ensure our public schools get the funding that our youth deserve to set them up for success. I will secure additional support from the state & federal level to create a system that results in higher test scores, attendance and graduation rates for all students. I was disappointed in the Governor's decision to veto the Kirwan Commission, which I fully support.

Health: Baltimore's race and class-based disparities in healthcare, which have been amplified by the coronavirus pandemic, need to be addressed immediately. As mayor, I will work with the Health Department to identify priority health issues and ensure access to healthcare and appropriate resources are available for all residents.

Transportation: Our broken public transportation system is a major factor as to why many Baltimore residents are unemployed or underemployed. My plan is to expand public bus routes to reach historically disinvested neighborhoods to better connect the city. I also plan to increase access to e-scooters, bicycles and ridesharing services.

Climate and Environment: My mission is to make Baltimore clean, green and livable for all city residents. My experience in the technology and energy sector will be invaluable in implementing innovative, affordable solutions to transform Baltimore into a city that uses all clean, renewable energy.

Housing: All residents deserve access to safe, clean, family-friendly affordable housing. I will collaborate with the private and public sector to rehabilitate vacant houses to be used as affordable housing. My priority is to increase job opportunities and access to them, which will ensure residents are able to secure safe and stable housing.

Baltimore City President of the City Council

Duties: The city council president is the presiding officer of the Baltimore City Council. Baltimore's law making body is the 15-member City Council.

The primary responsibilities of the city council are:

Enact ordinances (laws) and resolutions of the city.

Review and enact the annual Ordinance of Estimates (Operating and Capital Budgets).

Enact revenue ordinances necessary to meet the anticipated expenses of the budget.

Salary: \$125,000

Term: 4 years

How Elected: The 15th member, the city council president, is elected city-wide.

Issues

Background: What in your background and experience qualifies you to be the President of the Baltimore City Council?

Crime: What specific plans would you propose to reduce homicides and violent crime in Baltimore?

Education: How would you fund public education in Baltimore, while assuring the quality and ongoing structural maintenance of school buildings?

Health: What strategies do you have to address continued health disparities in Baltimore? What will you do to make sure that the Health Department has the resources it needs to serve all residents?

Transportation: What are your plans and priorities for improving public transportation to better serve City residents and employers?

Climate and Environment: As we face climate change and sea level rise, what would be your priorities to increase sustainable practices by the city and to increase the city's resilience?

Housing: What strategies do you propose to remove or rehabilitate vacant buildings and provide affordable housing?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Jovani M Patterson

Republican Party

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Background: As a cyber security engineer, I'm tasked with solving complex problems to maintain business continuity while preventing cyber threats. These tasks involve more than technical problem solving skills. I must guide stakeholders with disparate philosophies and

objectives toward a set of common desirable outcomes. I complement these skills with a strong commitment to faith, family, and community.

Crime: Violent offenders are constantly being released back onto our streets to repeat the same crimes. Our neighborhoods have become unsafe and our faith in the judicial system is at an all-time low. To remedy this, I'll ensure accountability through public reporting of police response times and arrests/convictions for repeat offenders. I'll also advocate for stricter penalties for victim intimidation.

Education: At over \$16,000/student, Baltimore City schools are not underfunded. I recommend a comprehensive audit to identify and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse-optimizing every dollar spent and ensuring accountability to you, the taxpayer. I also believe that our youth and parents shouldn't be subjected to failing schools. I fully support school choice through special vouchers and charter schools.

Health: We need a citywide task-force to track social determinants of health via public reporting and provide a framework for reducing disparities by 2025 and 2035. To address food deserts and ensure healthy food options, I'll devise a strategy to incentivize small local businesses to ensure food access for marginalized communities. I'll also advocate for improving work conditions for elderly caretakers.

Transportation: I want to reduce traffic congestion in our city by promoting use of greener alternatives and use of public transportation (buses and enhanced rail systems). To get buy-in from area employers, I'll commission a study on the costs tied to traffic congestion. I'll also propose a reduction in fines/penalties for transit users. These fines are unjustly high and are essentially a poor person tax.

Climate and Environment: Care for our planet starts with care for our immediate built environment. We need to address the number of dilapidated and abandoned properties. These places are safe havens for pests, trash, and toxins that have negative effects on people and our environment-including our water supply and the air we breathe. Regarding climate and environment, addressing urban blight is top priority.

Housing: I want to do more than merely ensure "affordable" housing; I want to increase home ownership. I'll design a skills-to-ownership program in which individuals can be employed by local developers to learn trades (i.e. carpentry), and build houses that they will eventually own. I also want to reduce high property taxes and incentivize private sector financing of home repairs for lower income families.

Nick Mosby

Democratic Party

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Background: I have experienced tremendous amount of legislative success not only as a member of the Baltimore City Council but also as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. My knowledge of the inner workings of state and local government and my public service record overlapped with my professional experiences as an electrical engineer sets me far apart from my opponents.

Crime: • Deploying and investing in evidence based violence reduction strategies similar to the Strategic Support Decision Centers in Chicago. • Utilizing CitiStat and Warrant Apprehension initiatives to create data driven methods that target Baltimore's violent repeat offenders. • Investing in harm reduction solutions like Safe Streets.

Education: Taking ownership of our school system and heightening it as a fiscal priority is a critical piece of developing a city we all want and know Baltimore can become. With the economic pressures from the COVID19 impact, now more than ever that focus must become

a core function and competency of our budget process. This will only take with driving more cost efficiency in other city departments.

Health: My public record as a City Councilman and State Delegate have always reflected strong positions and initiatives to address health disparities. As recent as the COVID19 impact on our city, I was the first to call on the Governor to publicly release data by race/ethnicity and zip code to ensure effective and equitable engagement, testing, and treatment.

Transportation: • Developing an innovative transportation plan, the City's first new transportation plan in 16 years, to begin moving Baltimore toward becoming a multimodal City. • Finding sustainable, fiscally responsible funding streams to expand Charm City Circulator. • Implementing Transportation Demand Management strategies for tailored approaches to congested streets.

Climate and Environment: My public record as a City Councilman and State Delegate have always reflected strong positions and initiatives to address climate and environment concerns. I led the charge in Annapolis to remove incineration from renewable portfolio standard tax credits. I have also remained a consistent fighter of holding lead paint manufactures as a responsible party to Baltimore's lead paint problems.

Housing: • Offering vacant property tax credit program • Developing a tiered tax bracket to for vacant property to increase activity • Developing opportunity zone tax credit overlay programs in transformational areas. • Developing opportunity zone live where you work incentives to drive investment and residential recruitment. • Using revenue for affordable housing expansion

Baltimore City Comptroller

Duties: The position was created by the City Charter which provides that the comptroller: Appoints the city auditor and has general supervision over the Department of Audits and the city auditor,
Heads the Department of Real Estate,
Serves on the Board of Estimates and the Board of Finance.

Salary: \$125,000

Term: 4 years

How Elected: The Comptroller is elected city-wide.

Issues

Background: What in your background and experience qualifies you to be Comptroller of Baltimore?

Information Security: What are your priorities for addressing the security issues and the obsolete hardware and software of the City's information systems?

Revenues: How would you increase revenues from leases and sales of city owned property?

Transparency: How would you ensure transparency and accountability of the Department of Real Estate's reviews and analysis of real estate-related transactions and development proposals?

Candidate

Vote for 1

Bill Henry

Democratic Party

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Background: As a three-term councilman, I've worked on legislation to hold government accountable, empower neighborhoods and grow the tax base. Before that, I earned an MBA with a concentration in Finance while working at the Patterson Park Community Development Corporation, turning vacant & blighted houses into owner-occupied homes and affordable rentals.

Information Security: We need to invest in 21st Century technology to better serve our residents. In the Comptroller's office, I will phase out typewriters and move towards a comprehensive and accessible database for the Board of Estimates. I'll prioritize strong procurement practices that buy us the most secure software for our services.

Revenues: We must create a comprehensive real estate strategy that promotes development without gentrification. We can do this by creating a municipal land bank, selling more of our property to responsible developers, and strengthening our "but for" tests, so our development incentives are only going to projects that really need them.

Transparency: Baltimore City needs an annual review of our tax breaks. There have never been regular reviews of development mechanisms or programs, including TIF financing and Vacants to Value. I will begin annually auditing City contracting and other spending for economic inclusion, to identify where we are falling short.

Baltimore City Council

Duties: Baltimore's law-making body is the 15-member City Council. The 15th member, the city council president, is elected city-wide. The primary responsibilities of the city council are:

- Enact ordinances (laws) and resolutions of the city.
- Review and enact the annual Ordinance of Estimates (Operating and Capital Budgets).
- Enact revenue ordinances necessary to meet the anticipated expenses of the budget.

Salary: \$73,000

Term: 4 years

How Elected: Baltimore City is divided into 14 council districts. The voters of each district elect one member to the city council. In execution of their responsibilities, City Council members represent their district's interests and serve their constituents as advocates with city government agencies.

Issues

Background: What in your background and experience qualifies you to be a member of the Baltimore City Council?

Crime: What specific plans would you propose to reduce homicides and violent crime in Baltimore?

Education: How would you fund public education in Baltimore, while assuring the quality and ongoing structural maintenance of school buildings?

Health: What strategies do you have to address continued health disparities in Baltimore? What will you do to make sure that the Health Department has the resources it needs to serve all residents?

Transportation: What are your plans and priorities for improving public transportation to better serve City residents and employers?

Climate and Environment: As we face climate change and sea level rise, what would be your priorities to increase sustainable practices by the city and to increase the city's resilience?

Housing: What strategies do you propose to remove or rehabilitate vacant buildings and provide affordable housing?

Council District 1

Candidate

Vote for 1

Zeke Cohen

Democratic Party

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Background: My work is a manifestation of my love for Baltimore. I am a former educator, co-founder of a youth nonprofit, and a proud parent. During my first term, my office has resolved more than 2,271 constituent requests. I have passed legislation to address youth trauma, increase government transparency, and advance gender equity. I have built coalitions around climate justice and youth employment.

Crime: Police need to be involved members of the community and well-trained in trauma-informed practices. In the short term, I intend to continue my work developing the Public Safety Task Force, which promotes neighborhood-based solutions and micro-community policing. The Trauma Responsive Care Act is a long-term investment in breaking the cycle of violence by addressing and preventing trauma.

Education: I am a former City Schools teacher, Chair of the Education and Youth Committee, and the father of a future City Schools student. As a social studies teacher, I taught in schools without heat, AC, or drinkable water. The current conditions are unacceptable. I'm an outspoken advocate for 21st-century school facilities and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to adequately fund our schools.

Health: Funding health programming is a proactive investment in our city. I worked with public health experts, researchers, and community leaders to develop and pass the Trauma Responsive Care Act, which takes a public health approach to treating and preventing trauma. I have also worked with outreach specialists to develop harm reduction strategies around opioid abuse and sex work in Highlandtown.

Transportation: Public transit is essential for increasing economic mobility. My first fight on City Council was a Bake Sale for Buses to restore full hours to student bus passes. We need to fund sustainable transit that connects East and West Baltimore, as the cancelled Red Line train would have done. I will also continue to collaborate with state legislators to improve MTA service delivery.

Climate and Environment: After the president's disturbing decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, I worked with a coalition of advocacy groups to pass a resolution upholding its aims in Baltimore. I continue to collaborate with student-led groups like Baltimore Beyond Plastic. We must invest in sustainable transit to reduce emissions and green stormwater infrastructure to manage flooding.

Housing: We need resident-led development projects; I worked with neighborhood leaders to restart O'Donnell Heights redevelopment. I will continue to work with Baltimore Housing Roundtable to explore affordable home ownership options, including Community Land Trusts. I voted for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and I support the Vacant/Rental Registration & Licensing bill to hold landlords accountable.

Council District 2

Candidates

Vote for 1

Brendon Joyner-El

Republican Party

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Background: I am a product of Baltimore City Public Schools. I attended Morgan State University where I earned my Bachelor of Art in History with a minor in political science. I recently earned my Master's in Educational Administration. My background and experience, both real-world and educational, have prepared me to produce timely conducive results.

Crime: As city councilman I will work with the legislature to double the minimum criminal penalty for violent repeat offenders to reduce homicides, increasing the minimum criminal penalty from five years to 10 years, without parole or probation. Through "truth in sentencing" legislation, this would require repeat violent offenders to serve their full sentences without suspension, parole or probation.

Education: To fund public education equitably, I propose taking into consideration the income levels of local taxpayers and setting relative progressive tax rates for public education funds. As a councilman, I would propose we consider non-residential property taxes in the conversation about equitable school funding.

Health: Technical package of evidence-based interventions, performance management, partnerships with local hospitals and universities, effective communication, and political commitment are all strategies I would implement to address health disparities in Baltimore. All programs must include justifiable monitoring systems that provide modest, accurate information on development in program implementation.

Transportation: Priority actions for improving public transportation to better serve city residents and employers will include working with the city Department of Transportation and Maryland Transportation Administration to improve bus speed and consistency in congested areas.

Climate and Environment: One priority I would like to implement to increase sustainable practices would be to place heavy fines and restrictions on illegal dumping in our city. Most importantly, adding another recycling day would be another method to increase sustainable practices.

Housing: The removal and/or rehabilitation of vacant homes can be used to provide affordable housing to citizens that qualify for incentive programs. The renovation of vacant lots can be transformed into green spaces such as community gardens/farms. This initiative provides occupations and provides opportunities for our youth.

Danielle McCray

Democratic Party

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Background: I care about the communities in the 2nd District. As a community organizer, staff member to then-Councilman Brandon Scott for five years, and as the 2nd District's

Councilwoman, I have been a zealous, consistent, and effective advocate for my fellow neighbors.

Crime: As a member of the City Council, I think it is imperative that I take an active role in law enforcement efforts. I have worked closely with leadership in the Baltimore Police Department to ensure that resources are being deployed in a way that is fair to all of our communities. I also support allocating additional funding for technology that can be used for crime-prevention purposes.

Education: First and foremost, I am a strong supporter of the initiatives proposed by the Kirwan Commission. The Commission has set forth a first rate plan for making sure that Baltimore's youth are well prepared for higher education and the workforce. I also support all efforts to make all of our schools 21st century schools.

Health: Access to healthcare is frequently a conversation about equity. As a member of the City Council, I am committed to making sure that all of our residents—regardless of zip code—have access to essential health services. In particular, I plan to work with our city's health department leaders to ensure that access to preventative medicine is a reality for all Baltimoreans.

Transportation: Ultimately, we need to make sure that our public transit options are truly tailored to the rider experience. That means that buses and trains need to consistently arrive on time and travel to locations where they are needed. I will work with Department of Transportation leaders at the local and state level to make this happen.

Climate and Environment: The first step is awareness. We need to make sure that our neighbors and city leaders understand the importance of sustainable practices. As a council member, I will continue to have a keen eye towards the environmental impact of our actions.

Housing: Before voting to approve new development projects, I will work closely with developers to better understand how affordable housing fits into their plans. I also support efforts to provide tax or grant incentives for those involved in the rehabilitation of vacant buildings/lots.

Council District 3

Candidates

Vote for 1

David Marshall Wright

Republican Party

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Campaign Phone: (443) 687-3762

Background: I am a born and bred Baltimorean, and have committed myself to serving my fellow citizens on the community level by volunteering through my church. I have worked for the Maryland State Judiciary. And as a member of the Maryland Army National Guard, I carry on the proud tradition of being a citizen soldier committed to the people of Maryland ready to serve at a moment's notice.

Crime: First, we as a City must address the contributing factors to the kind of crime that is plaguing our communities, slaughtering our citizens in the streets and driving others to seek the perceived safety of suburban living. In this area all too often we want to sooth the symptoms and not address the cancer which is killing our city. Poverty, unemployment, under-employment and a failing school system

Education: Greater Transparency and Oversight are the only means to solve the issue of our Failing Baltimore School System. All efforts to improve and fund BCPSS must begin with a good hard look at how we spend money especially at the School Headquarters on North Ave. We need to make cuts to nonessential expenses an redirect dollars to the classroom.

Health: When we are seeking a policy solution to the Health disparities in Baltimore we have to address the fact that lower income nonwhite residents suffer disproportionately for

lack for lack of access to quality healthcare and things as simple as basic preventative care and an annual physical could greatly curtail this crisis.

Transportation: We have to examine our public transportation system which is primarily used by people of color, the poor and the disabled to ensure that these citizens are getting where they need to go in a safe and timely manner. We need to make all the necessary improvements to have a clean, safe, and sustainable infrastructure to support a robust economy and a 21st Century City.

Climate and Environment: It's our responsibility to be the best stewards of our city and its natural beauty that we can be and as leaders it's our responsibility to educate the public on the importance of keeping our city clean and the role each of us play daily in making Baltimore as Green as possible.

Housing: There are an estimated 17,000 vacant and dilapidated homes in Baltimore and there is no one policy solution which will eliminate this issue, but we can take certain measures to alleviate the blight. The "Dollar House Program" where homes are sold by the city for \$1 to anyone who agrees to make it a residence either theirs or a rental property for the next 5 years.

Ryan Dorsey

Democratic Party

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Background: As a Councilmember, I've become a student of how city government works and what makes other cities safe and prosperous, and I'm the Council's most active and successful legislator. As a lifelong 3rd District resident with a more than a decade of experience in a city-based small business, and as a graduate of the Baltimore School for the Arts, I bring valuable and unique perspective.

Crime: Expand Safe Streets, and support Ceasefire. These are the only efforts that have an actual track record of effectiveness. Reduce fatigue on patrol by reassigning to actual police work the 250+ sworn officers currently performing civilian administrative duties. The State must properly fund parole and probation supervision and augment reentry programming and support.

Education: Policing reforms and budgetary cuts can easily free up tens of millions for schools. Increase all codified City fees to account for inflation since their last updates, and index for future inflation. Renegotiate PILOTs with non-profits and repeal inequitable tax credits. Increase our tax base through public infrastructure investment that makes neighborhoods more livable.

Health: One of Baltimore's worst health crises is early mortality from cardio-respiratory diseases. Access to clean air and active transportation infrastructure are two major solutions to this and to other conditions like asthma. My Complete Streets law does both, and improves Baltimore's eligibility for public health grants. We also need to add mold to our rental housing inspection checklist.

Transportation: My plan (bit.ly/DorseyTransportationPlan) outlines proposals to speed public transit through dedicated bus lanes and other infrastructure, as part of a Complete Streets overhaul of our roads, while also reducing traffic congestion. We should provide free transit passes for all municipal employees, setting an example that encourages all major employers to offer the same.

Climate and Environment: We can use MS-4 stormwater funds for capital projects that both stop runoff and also make streets safe and more welcoming to walking, biking, and public transit, reducing auto reliance. This would increase resilience and would lower

emissions and improve air quality. We should invest in green and white roofs and tree canopy citywide, and allow/encourage increased density in more areas.

Housing: Policies that improve quality of life for existing residents also attract development, so that's where my focus is. We should be building our own housing, and growing community land trusts and the affordable housing trust fund enables us to do so. I'll introduce a local voucher program that will increase affordable housing access citywide. Rent control and stabilization must be considered.

Council District 4

Candidate

Vote for 1

Mark Conway

Democratic Party

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Background: As Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of CitiStat I served on the Mayor's cabinet and was responsible for holding city agencies accountable. Today, as Executive Director of the Baltimore Tree Trust, I work to revitalize underserved neighborhoods by planting thousands of trees and training Baltimoreans for jobs in tree care and landscaping.

Crime: 1.) strong schools that prepare our young people for a productive contribution our city whether they intend to go to college or pursue a trade, 2.) job training and placement for our at-risk teens, adults, and returning citizens, 3.) trauma services for our most vulnerable communities, 4.) violence interrupter programs, such as Safe Streets, that help to defuse potential violence.

Education: I believe we should reopen conversations about the PILOT agreement with our city's nonprofits in order to close some of the gap, and that we should work with our Department of finance to identify areas where we can reduce agency budgets to identify the remainder. I would start with the \$50 million per year Police overtime budget that exists because of weak oversight and persistent shortages.

Health: We must ensure that low income communities of color have the basic necessities like grocery stores, open space that is safe for residents to be active and exercise. We need to remove barriers to a healthy lifestyle and work within the community to help residents improve their habits while ensuring all of our residents have equitable access to physical and mental health resources.

Transportation: I would work to build a reliable, robust, and affordable multi-modal transit system that integrates rail, bus, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure to move Baltimoreans across the region. Bus rapid transit may serve as a viable alternative to rail, however we must ensure that public transportation is prioritized to reduce our city's overreliance on cars.

Climate and Environment: I would like to reduce the city's reliance on fossil fuels to heat city buildings, begin transitioning toward an all-electric fleet of vehicles, and begin moving Baltimore toward becoming a zero-waste city.

Housing: First, we must work to slow the flow of investment out of our city by implementing policies to match buyers, renters, or businesses that can potentially fill vacated buildings before they fall into disrepair and require demolition. Finally, we will need to implement policies that encourage investment in areas that we can rehabilitate or replace vacant housing with new affordable homes.

Council District 5

Candidates

Vote for 1

Maria Mandela Vismale

Republican Party

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Background: I am a 3rd generation Baltimorean, an HBCU graduate, a dedicated community advocate, & devout Catholic. My family has operated a soup kitchen at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church ministering to those in need. I currently work as a defense investigator helping indigent clients/ advocating criminal justice reform. I hope to use my professional analytical skills and my advocacy for a better Baltimore

Crime: 1. Ramp up community-based diversion programs for first time, non-violent offenders 2. Improve harm reduction strategies for substance use disorders/chronic drug users. 3. Re-examine the role of community liaisons/public meetings in the fed/local consent decree-focus on why police don't prioritize "quality of life" crimes

Education: 1. Establish private sector-public school partnerships that combine school with technical training & paid work 2. Audit the Baltimore City Public School System to identify and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse; Reduce the current 7 administrator per student ratio 3. Explore vouchers and charter school options for students in failing schools.

Health: 1. Routine hosting of events for community health fairs, healthcare financing fairs, and care for caretaker strategies 2. Form citywide task force on health disparities and task the group with designing strategies to reduce health disparities by 2030. 3. Address food deserts by conducting need survey with area grocers.

Transportation: 1. Address contractor overruns to optimize funding and rebuild streets. 2. Monitor responsiveness to 211 requests for service. 3. Identify ways to incentivize private employers to subsidize use of public transportation for employees.

Climate and Environment: 1. Pledge a percentage of my salary if elected towards planting 500 trees in my district by the end of the 1st year. 2. Establish monthly community clean ups at Baltimore's parks and bodies of water. 3. Encourage Board of Estimates to offer contracts for local eco-friendly contractors or contractors that contribute to routine tree-planting and cleanup efforts.

Housing: 1. Revitalize nonoperational neighborhood associations 2. Lower city property taxes (highest in Maryland). 3. Create private/public partnerships to reinvest and rebuilds boarded up homes 4. Prioritize a comprehensive audit of current city expenditures and drastically decrease administrative bloat and property tax rates

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Democratic Party

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No response received by deadline.

Council District 6

Candidates

Vote for 1

Michelle Y. Andrews

Republican Party

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Background: I'm a proud mother, a third generation Baltimorean, and a financial planner with nearly 15 years of experience of helping young women lead positive, productive lives. I am skilled at working with various stakeholders to arrive at solutions that help society's most vulnerable. I have vast experience in financial planning and healthcare provision, which affords me deeper insight on key issues.

Crime: 1. Demand public reporting/monitoring of police response rates and arrests/convictions for repeat perpetrators of violent crimes 2. Ramp up community-based diversion programs for first time, non-violent offenders 3. Re-examine the role of community liaisons/public meetings in the fed/local consent decree-focus on why police don't prioritize "quality of life" crimes

Education: 1. Many structural maintenance doesn't happen because of lack of funds or poor contractor performance; Contractors often go into overruns costing millions yet the Board of Estimates hires the same repeat offenders; let's weed out bad actors through stricter rules & tighter scoring systems 2. Establish private sector-public school partnerships that combine school with technical training & paid work

Health: 1. Advocate to allow WIC & EBT users online ordering & delivery options linked to local groceries stores/markets; this would help vulnerable folks and help small businesses 2. Form citywide task force on health disparities & task the group with designing strategies to reduce health disparities by 2030 3. Link elderly residents with Community Personal Assistance Services program & Medicaid services

Transportation: 1. Reduce taxation on ride-share companies (Uber/Lyft) to promote shared rides in poorer neighborhoods. 2. Eliminate high fines for transit users who do not have correct change or not enough change 3. Commission a study on traffic congestion and the business costs associated with it to get area employers to subsidize public transportation for employees

Climate and Environment: 1. Prioritize MORE community involvement in projects organized by the demolition division at the Baltimore City housing department; these demolitions release a lot of toxins in the air and in my neighborhood, they really hurt folks who are asthmatics. 2. Incentivize private sector financing of low-income households to repair & weatherize their homes to keep them safe and reduce utility bills.

Housing: 1. Owner-occupied homes can go to tax sale if they have at least \$750 in unpaid bills that are at least nine months late; No other jurisdictions in Maryland threaten to take away homes or properties over water debt. Eliminate this asap 2. Prioritize a comprehensive audit of current city expenditures and drastically decrease administrative bloat and property tax rates

Sharon Green Middleton

Democratic Party

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Background: I proudly serve as Councilwoman of Baltimore City Council District 6 and Vice President. I'm the 2020 President of the Maryland Association of Counties. The first African American person, from Baltimore City to hold that position. I also serve as a Commissioner on the Baltimore City Office of Aging, and Chairwoman of the Taxation, Finance, & Economic Dev. Committee, Member of Land Use, etc.

Crime: Investments I would make to help achieve Baltimore's crime reduction goals would start with preparing for community-driven strategies with resources: * Revitalizing safe and stable housing and growing small businesses in our neighborhoods. * Providing safe and secure housing for our senior citizens * Increasing employment, apprenticeships, education, and economic opportunity especially for youth.

Education: The "Kirwan Blueprint" legislation, is implementing the full fiscal recommendations during the Maryland General Assembly. I will advocate for adequate, fair, and reasonable funding and urge State policymakers to sustain a level of public education funding without burdening essential local services. I will advocate reviewing formulas to promote the smartest, effective funding for modern Schools.

Health: Substance use disorders and mental illness remain two of the most pressing health issues in our City. Health Departments are the "first responders" for public health emergencies, but have been forced to do more with much less after significant state Core Funding cuts. I support innovative and gap-filling behavioral health initiatives that improve access availability of services, resources, and staff

Transportation: Baltimore residents need better access! I support a system of transportation that supports various modes of transportation, works to ensure the safety of all users, and respects the right of each citizens preferred mode of transportation. To help to establish a transportation system that benefits all people & link to all neighborhoods. Baltimore must embrace an equitable deployment of investment.

Climate and Environment: Its extremely important to have consistent focus on a healthy & green environment. The City must continue delivery of income- eligible families energy efficiency and weatherization services with health improvements such as lead reduction. They offers energy and health upgrades to small businesses & non-profits who serve low-income residents when grants are available. Continue to maximize policies.

Housing: Affordable housing is a basic need. I'm committed to increasing the number of affordable housing units. We must stay strategic and focused on providing affordable housing for our homeless and low-income population including through vouchers, for-profit and non-profit developers and place-based efforts. We have to redress the long-standing race-based barriers that have devastated neighborhoods.

Council District 7

Candidates

Vote for 1

Christopher M. Anderson

Republican Party

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Background: I am a 3rd generation Baltimorean, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, and a lifelong community advocate. For years, I've managed non-profit organizations geared to helping homeless and vulnerable populations in Baltimore. I've learned, first hand, the policy barriers and the financial impediments to making a better Baltimore. Like many Baltimoreans, I've had enough with the BS talk; I want real change.

Crime: My district is ground zero for homicides and violent crime. Many solutions, but first, I would demand public reporting/monitoring of police response rates and arrests/convictions for perpetrators of violent crimes. Baltimore City has an average police response time of 16 minutes--way too long. Second, I would ramp up community-based diversion programs for first time, non-violent offenders.

Education: 1. Expand school choice through school vouchers and charter schools. 2. Audit the Baltimore City Public School System to identify and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse; Reduce the current 7 administrator per student ratio (i.e., administrative bloat). 3. Establish private sector-public school partnerships to ensure opportunities to combine academics with paid work.

Health: Work with academic/non-profit/business community stakeholders to establish a COVID-19 Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Disparities tasked to devise a strategy and recommendations for reducing COVID-19 among African Americans. 2. Advocate to allow WIC & EBT users online ordering & delivery options linked to local groceries stores/markets; this would help vulnerable folks and help small businesses.

Transportation: 1. Eliminate high fines for users who do not have correct change or not enough change; this is a poor person tax. 2. Propose study on costs associated with increased traffic congestion--specifically costs on businesses (inventory costs, logistics costs, reliability costs) to get more buy-in from area businesses and "riders by choice", i.e. passengers who own cars and could drive if they wanted to

Climate and Environment: 1. Examine the impact of a contamination of water systems due to 4 Superfund sites in the Baltimore area 2. Establish a mechanism by which there is MORE community involvement in projects organized by the demolition division at the Baltimore City housing department; these demolitions release a lot of toxins in the air and in my neighborhood, they really hurt folks who are asthmatics.

Housing: 1. Address contractor overruns and create scorecards for every contractor who bids on projects, read on record during bid openings and publish in Board of Estimates minutes. 2. Establish private-public partnerships to provide short-term financing for families to make necessary repairs to homes and reduce the number of dilapidated/condemned homes.

James Torrence

Democratic Party

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Background: I am a policy professional who sought public service opportunities in local, state and federal government. These experiences coupled with my legal education enable me to use collaborative problem-solving approaches that empower communities and protect our vulnerable neighbors to move the District and City forward.

Crime: If elected, I will work to increase investments in addressing the root causes of violent crime such as meaningful employment; recreation; affordable housing; equitably distributed educational resources; and more. Likewise, I will ensure that BPD has a data-driven plan for officer deployment and utilizes evidence-based reduction strategies.

Education: I will fight to ensure the City's budget funds the Kirwan Commission's recommendations for teaching and learning while maintaining or rebuilding school facilities. This would require examining and reprioritizing the City's budget while reassessing tax breaks.

Health: I will ensure projects or developments that are possibly environmentally harmful to City residents seek community feedback. I will ensure vulnerable communities have health

center resources (i.e., healthy food stores, mental health clinics, and more). I will work with the Council to make sure the Health Department is fully funded.

Transportation: I strongly support increased transit investments. Our City needs a bus and subway systems which supports increased accessibility for pedestrians and reduces our impact on the climate. However, we need a transit system that incorporates diverse modes of transportation but also is equitable, safe and reliable. I strongly support transit-oriented development.

Climate and Environment: I strongly support zero waste principles for the City because it can improve residents' lives. Reused waste materials can reduce our dependence on landfills. Promoting environmentally-oriented development and jobs is a must through public funding and tax incentives to support this transformation.

Housing: Too often we hear there is not enough funding to remove vacant properties in the City. I believe the City should advocate to federal partners for supports in removing housing that has lead and other hazards. Housing that is usable, the City must convert these properties into multi-unit affordable housing.

Council District 8

Candidate

Vote for 1

Kristerfer Burnett

Democratic Party

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Background: Prior to being elected to serve on the Baltimore City Council in 2016, I worked for over a decade as a community organizer on a variety of issues impacting our city. I am now an experienced legislator, I have passed impactful legislation, and am Chair of both City Council's Health Committee and the Legislative Investigations Committee, as well as, the Vice-Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Crime: If we view gun violence solely as a police issue, not only are we failing to be effective, but we are failing to treat the root symptoms of why gun violence occurs. We must increase the number of violence interrupters and mediators, and encourage more collaboration between community and government. And most importantly, we have to use a lens of public health and equity in policymaking.

Education: I believe that Baltimore City should be contributing more towards education, and we should look for creative ways to fund this -- such as re-visiting the current \$6 million PILOT agreement with (15) large not-for-profit institutions in Baltimore City. These institutions should be paying their fair share and I have Co-Sponsored a Resolution to revisit this agreement.

Health: As Chair of Baltimore City Council's Public Health Committee I have held a series of televised public hearings on social determinants of health -- the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of social forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. We must explore these issues and build a policy framework to address them comprehensively.

Transportation: A rapid, interconnected and robust transit system is critical to moving our city forward and ensuring Baltimore City residents have access to local and regional employment opportunities. I would prioritize efforts to reduce resident dependency on cars and advocate for more sustainable transportation methods such as Investments in Complete Streets concepts to help all move safely through our city.

Climate and Environment: During my first term as a Councilmember I've consistently

supported Zero Waste principles and worked to advance several environmental related bills. I believe we have taken additional steps such as providing all residents with 65-gallon recycling bins and comparable composting bins, provide robust environmental education, and explore the creation of a city-owned material recovery facility.

Housing: Resolving the issue is complex and requires the utilization of tools ranging from strategic code enforcement, providing additional financial incentives for the redevelopment of blighted properties, and supporting the creation of community land trust to resist market forces and improve neighborhood stability.

Council District 9

Candidate

Vote for 1

John T. Bullock

Democratic Party

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Background: As a father and former neighborhood association president, I am committed to strengthening our communities. Being a political science professor and city planner includes the education and experience to address local issues. Government and nonprofit work in housing and transportation helps to create effective solutions; and serving as a Council Member provides real perspective.

Crime: A community oriented policing approach with more officers getting out of cars and walking neighborhood streets is necessary. We must also make prevention a priority by directing more money toward recreation, education, and employment opportunities in neglected communities. Also, expanded anti-violence programs can be effective at interrupting neighborhood conflicts.

Education: Baltimore must continue advocating for adequate education funding from the state as highlighted by the Kirwin Commission. Accordingly, we will need to increase the local contribution toward maintaining BCPSS facilities. The City must also creatively leverage existing funding through public-private partnerships which would bring additional resources to the school system.

Health: We must make health related funding a priority in the City budget. It is also important to support service provision in areas experiencing disparate impact. This also includes the active recruitment of healthier options in food deserts. Partnerships with local institutions can expand their reach into the most affected communities and should have multi-generational approach.

Transportation: As a transportation advocate, it is clear that the cancellation of the Red Line stunted progress in creating a comprehensive system. However, the Council's Transportation Committee must continue working with MDOT/MTA to push for more funding to increase frequency, as well as infrastructure enhancements including bus shelters, dedicated lanes, and signal prioritization.

Climate and Environment: We must continue moving toward a zero waste framework which includes increasing recycling rates as well as composting. As the green economy will account for future job growth, we must have a prepared workforce to install solar panels and other energy options. Recent policies regarding polystyrene and plastic bags are also important factors in reducing reliance on landfills.

Housing: Baltimore must utilize local and state funds for targeted demolition to clear blight, with the vacant lots being used for murals and community gardens. Some houses could be

transferred to neighborhood organizations with the resources for renovation. Money from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund should be dedicated toward community land trusts to ensure permanent affordability.

Council District 10

Candidates

Vote for 1

Michael W. Nolet

Republican Party

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Background: * BS in Electrical Engineering and English from Duke * MA in Psychology from Wake Forest * Ph.D. from UMBC * Member of the Balt. City Rep. Central Committee * As a psychologist, worked with juvenile offenders, emotionally disturbed students, service members, and adults & child patients. My training allows me to assess systems , build coalitions & teams to resurrect the true spirit of Baltimore.

Crime: We must address the causes of crime including poverty, substance abuse, poor school performance, and unemployment. Our leaders need a vision of how these complexities impact each other and ways to motivate citizens to be instruments of change. We need organizations, churches, and individuals to come together to create a community to face these challenges and support families in Baltimore.

Education: I spoke with Baltimore city school teachers who talked about a lack of respect and support from parents, students and administrators; dealing with physically aggressive students; poor physical plants, and a lack of financial accountability for administrators. Students' basic needs must be met (hunger impacts learning). We need to retain high quality teachers who inspire their students to excel.

Health: I shy away from wholly city funded programs as they can tend to mismanage resources. Instead, I suggest that local hospitals be encouraged to increase the scope and number of training clinics to provide a full range of services (including mental health) within some of Baltimore's poorest communities. These clinics would be funded by corporate and individual donors in addition to city funds.

Transportation: Citizens complain about the unreliability of transit systems in Baltimore. Collaborating with state and federal agencies would allow us to assess the needs of commuters. The Maglev train could create an opportunity for workers in DC to relocate to Baltimore, which could result not only in increased property values but also increased tax revenue and, subsequently, community improvement.

Climate and Environment: Baltimore is struggling with crumbling infrastructure while subjecting her residents to an overly burdensome tax rate. As with all departments, I would propose that departments be audited to root out waste and more effectively utilize tax dollars. I would propose that the city undertake an assessment of both current and future infrastructure needs and the costs to address them.

Housing: Stable housing is important to increase hope within the city. Modeling programs that have been successful elsewhere (such as Housing First and Urban Ministries in Charlotte, NC) would enable the city and nonprofits to provide homes as well as wrap around services for families. Developers of new projects could be encouraged to pledge to renovate vacant properties as part of their proposal

Phylicia Porter**Democratic Party****Campaign Website:** <http://www.porter4baltimore.com>**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/porter4baltimore>**Campaign Twitter:** twitter.com/porter4bmore**Campaign Instagram:** [instagram/porter4bmore](https://www.instagram.com/porter4bmore)**Campaign Email:** Phylicia@porter4baltimore.com**Campaign Phone:** (443) 509-6640

Background: My 10- year career as a public health professional & community organizer on the national, state, and local level will allow me to efficiently work with agencies, community members, and my Council colleagues to develop new community-driven approaches to Baltimore's challenges to public safety, efficient Baltimore City services, better schools, and stronger economic growth.

Crime: Public safety comes first, especially for children and seniors. Beyond reducing violence, reducing harm to victims, and ending cycles of criminalization, safer neighborhoods require us to think holistically about factors outside of the traditional public safety sphere. These include factors related to education and economic opportunity, but also environmental factors as well.

Education: Funding education is very complex. I will advocate for current Kirwan recommendations for school funding to include operations & maintenance costs. Additionally, education funds will be secured through auditing & reprioritizing of the city's budget & tax incentives on large scale property developments. Quality education is an investment from local government, business, and community.

Health: First, the City Health Department should be fully funded to ensure that maximum resources serve neighborhoods. Secondly, community- based organizations should be leveraged to increase the footprint of the Health Department. With limited resources, community connection to combat health disparities is vitally important. Lastly, I would address the socioeconomic component of health disparities.

Transportation: I will work with the Mayor, City Council, community leaders, and our representatives in Annapolis to re-engage funding mechanisms for projects like the Red Line & other coordinated transportation systems. Additionally, I will continue to explore more options for expanding and optimizing coordination between the Baltimore City bus, subway, light rail systems & pedestrian modes of transit.

Climate and Environment: I plan on promoting environmentally-oriented sustainable jobs for young people by facilitating access to public funds for environmentally-focused economies. I will encourage & support the development of 'green' industries in Baltimore such as composting, re-useable waste, and recycling programs. Lastly, I support incentives toward Zero Waste, tree planting & commercial 'green' canopy structures.

Housing: I support providing incentives to community centered developers to revitalize, remove, or rehabilitate properties into habitable spaces through the support of community development corporations, community land trusts, and others. Community development should be a partnership that centers on the actual communities served to boost affordable homeownership & preservation.

Council District 11

Candidate

Vote for 1

Eric Costello**Democratic Party****Campaign Website:** <http://www.costelloforbaltimore.com>**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/councilmanetc>

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Background: I have served on the City Council since October 2014. My primary focus has been on constituent services for residents, businesses, and non-profit partners. My secondary focus has been on both improving government efficiency and effectiveness resulting in cost savings to the taxpayer as well as effecting policies to improve quality of life and outcomes for Baltimore residents.

Crime: Public safety is the most significant and complex challenge we face in Baltimore. Reducing homicides and violent crimes requires short, medium, and long-term approaches that complement each other. I have introduced bills that create tax credits for police officers to live in the city and a rebate program for private security cameras. This requires strong State & Federal assistance.

Education: I am 100% committed to ensuring Kirwan Commission recommendations local funding requirements are fully funded by Baltimore. As Chair of the Council's Budget Committee, I have led the effort to voluntarily raise the City's MOE to BCPSS and find additional funds to support City Schools. I support the Built to Learn Act to for new school construction & agree with using FY2020 surplus to unlock \$'s.

Health: Much of this work relies on our medical institutions and non-profit partners. One great example is the Bmore Healthy Babies program, which has virtually eliminated infant mortality in Upton / Druid Heights in the 11th District. Support for evidence based programs such as this are critical. The Health Department is nearly 80% funded by grants, so grants management accountability is a must.

Transportation: Public transportation is predominately governed and operated by the State. One area of local control (while still partially State-funded) is the Circulator system. I have been a huge proponent of it, helping to save the Banner Route in 2015 and 2016, expansion of the system, as well as ensuring accountability of DOT in their operations of it, and reducing duplication in our water transit.

Climate and Environment: I fully support the Sustainability Plan issued by Baltimore Sustainability Commission. I voted in favor of the Clean Air Act, the ban on Styrofoam, and single-use plastic bags. The focus of my work in this area has been on stormwater remediation. I plan to pick this work up next term with a focus on Stormwater Green Infrastructure as well as focusing on installation of electronic vehicle chargers.

Housing: I supported the: Affordable Housing Trust Fund (and funding); Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund; and Community Catalyst Grants to chip away at vacant & affordable housing issues. I've successfully pushed for development / renovation of > 1,500 affordable units in 11th on nearly two dozen projects and will continue to do this as a priority. This focus has been in CW in partnership with Upton.

Council District 12

Candidates

Vote for 1

Eugene Z Boikai

Republican Party

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Background: I'm the most unconventional candidate this election cycle. I'm a building/construction manager and a proud father of four. My work is devoted to reviewing

projects, drafting plans, getting stakeholder input, and ensuring that projects meet strict deadlines. Our current city council is filled with slick politicians that say one thing and do nothing. We need a results-driven person for real change.

Crime: Homicides & violent crime are rampant in District 12. Plans for change include: 1. Ramp up community-based diversion programs for first time, non-violent offenders 2. Monitor and lower police response rates (call-to-arrival) from current average (16 min) 3. Re-examine the role of community liaisons/public meetings in the consent decree (focus on why police don't prioritize "quality of life" crimes)

Education: 1. Establish private sector-public school partnerships that combine college preparatory academics with technical training and workplace experience. 2. Audit the Baltimore City Public School System to identify and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse; Reduce the current 7 administrator per student ratio--way too high! 3. Explore vouchers and charter school options for students in failing schools.

Health: 1. Start community forums where caregivers & persons with chronic illnesses can learn more about programs like Maryland's Community Personal Assistance Services program and other Medicaid services. 2. Form citywide task force on health disparities and task the group with designing strategies to reduce health disparities by 2030. 3. Address food deserts by conducting need survey with area grocers.

Transportation: 1. We need to target buy-in from area employers to subsidize their employees' use of public transportation; let's commission a study on traffic congestion and the business costs associated with it. 2. Address congestion due to ride-share companies (Uber/Lyft)--single rides in congested downtown districts could be taxed higher while slightly decreasing tax for shared rides in poorer neighborhoods.

Climate and Environment: The problem stems with built environment challenges & the lack of a coherent citywide environmental sustainability strategy. Any strategy should address private contractors, which are a problem in city projects. Many contractors go into overruns costing millions yet the Board of Estimates awards the same repeat offenders; let's weed out bad actors through stricter rules & tighter scoring systems.

Housing: 1. Incentivize private sector financing of low-income households to repair & weatherize their homes to keep them safe and reduce utility bills. 2. In Baltimore, owner-occupied homes can go to tax sale if they have at least \$750 in unpaid bills that are at least nine months late; No other jurisdictions in Maryland threaten to take away properties over water debt--Let's stop this takeaway ASAP.

Robert Stokes, Sr.

Democratic Party

No response received by deadline.

Franca Muller Paz

Green Party

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Background: I am an award-winning teacher and community organizer. Since becoming a teacher in 2010, I have been a fierce advocate for students, families, and educators, served as a 3-term elected Baltimore Teachers Union representative and advised several youth-led movements. I will continue to fight to uplift the voice of the community and together create a more equitable Baltimore.

Crime: We continue to struggle with crimes of poverty and desperation. Instead of doubling down on failed strategies, we must address the root causes of crime: systemic racism and a

lack of opportunity for many in our city. The Baltimore Police Department must be transformed into a community-led public safety program and redirect funding towards the physical, economic, and well-being of our neighbors.

Education: Baltimore allocates only about 15% of its budget to education; meanwhile, in the rest of Maryland the average is 36%. While we must ensure that the state of Maryland fulfills its constitutional responsibility to provide a quality education to our kids, City Hall must still pay its fair share. I will fight to increase school funding until reaching at least 161M in yearly additional funds by 2030.

Health: Baltimore struggles with the highest asthma mortality and pediatric asthma hospitalization rate in the state, and has among the highest pediatric asthma rates in the USA. We must reduce toxic pollution by banning waste incineration and reducing car congestion. We must also hold the paint industry accountable for the damage they have caused and place greater regulations on properties with lead.

Transportation: Baltimore City needs an equitable, accessible, efficient, multi-modal transit system which allows everyone to get where they need to go in a timely and safe manner, and to spur economic development for Black and Brown communities. Our public transit system must be controlled locally, and Baltimore community members should have a meaningful voice at the decision making table.

Climate and Environment: It is important that as a city we prioritize making our city sustainable. We should not contribute to climate change, instead we should implement plans to make our city a Green city. I will support the implementation of Baltimore's Fair Development Plan for Zero Waste and work alongside the Baltimore Office of Sustainability and the Commission on Sustainability to support them in their efforts.

Housing: I will fight for greater regulation of mortgage and short-term lenders and combat the systemic practice of predatory higher loan rates for black and brown residents. This can push people into cycles of debt, lower their credit, and make homeownership and even renting close to impossible. We must loosen the Maryland and Baltimore City restrictions on applying Section 8 vouchers towards mortgages.

Council District 13

Candidate

Vote for 1

Antonio "Tony" Glover

Democratic Party

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No response received by deadline.

Council District 14

Candidates

Vote for 1

Charles A. Long

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

Odette Ramos

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://odetteramos.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://odetteramosbaltimore>

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Background: I have 30 years' experience in Baltimore, starting in 1992 organizing college campuses to ensure Maryland stays a pro-choice state, to organizing the Neighborhood Congress, to being a small business owner and Chair of the Baltimore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and more recently leading the Affordable Housing Trust Fund effort and passing legislation to protect homeowners from tax sale.

Crime: As Councilwoman, I will work to help Commissioner Harrison with hiring, and work to address root causes like tackling substance abuse which fuels our drug trade and violence, promote a year round jobs program for young people, and expand our small business to promote job growth.

Education: Baltimore is benefiting from the General Assembly's work bringing more funds for school construction. I would like to serve on the City Council's Budget committee to move funding toward education. Voters must pass the charter amendment giving more power to the City Council to impact the budget to fund our schools.

Health: Our hospitals must play a greater role in addressing health disparities. Other cities have engaged their hospitals to invest in housing, healthy food access, and more. I'll bring ours together with health advocates and professionals to implement these initiatives, making it a condition of their PILOT. I will work to ensure the Health Department is fully funded.

Transportation: We must create a Regional Transit Authority, taking our system out of the MTA and making it our own. We have to work with our county partners to ensure there is access to jobs, that students can get to school on time, and that our system serves all of our residents.

Climate and Environment: I will ask the City Council President to create a Sustainability Committee of the City Council to work to implement Baltimore's Sustainability Plan. I will introduce legislation to bring back the Bottle deposit bill to help our environment and reduce trash, and I'll incentivize community solar throughout the city.

Housing: We must institute a Land Bank, which is legislation I passed in the General Assembly. It is a more efficient way of transferring properties to organizations who will create affordable housing and homeownership. We must also use the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to fund more units, and help seniors aging in place, which will help prevent more vacancies.

Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 8

Duties: Judges preside in the Circuit Court, which is a trial court that hears major civil cases and more serious criminal cases, such as those requiring a jury trial. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

Salary: \$174,433, effective July 1, 2021

Term: Fifteen years, no term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

How Elected: The state is divided into 8 Judicial Circuits. The General Assembly determines the number of judges in each circuit and county. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office. Each newly appointed Circuit Court judge then must stand for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. One or more other qualified members of the bar may also run to fill the vacancy. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots.

Issues

Qualifications: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

Court Needs: What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland’s court system and how can these be addressed?

Repeat Offenders: What can the courts do to reduce recidivism?

Discrimination: What steps can the courts take to reduce the risk that bias will influence the outcome of legal proceedings?

Candidates

Vote for 5

Sylvester Cox

Judicial

Campaign Website: <http://www.baltimorecitysittingjudges.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BaltimoreCitySittingJudges>

No response received by deadline.

Althea M. Handy

Judicial

Campaign Website: <http://www.baltimorecitysittingjudges.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreCitySittingJudges>

No response received by deadline.

Gregory Sampson

Judicial

Campaign Website: <http://www.baltimorecitysittingjudges.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BaltimoreCitySittingJudges>

No response received by deadline.

Robert Taylor

Judicial

Campaign Website: <http://www.baltimorecitysittingjudges.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BaltimoreCitySittingJudges>

No response received by deadline.

Anthony F. Vittoria

Judicial

Campaign Website: <http://www.baltimorecitysittingjudges.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BaltimoreCitySittingJudges>

No response received by deadline.

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At-Large

Duties: Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans’ Court in cases brought before it. The Court, usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent. The Court is composed of 15 judges: eight at large and one each from seven appellate judicial districts.

Salary: \$178,633 annual base.

Term: Ten years, no term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

How Elected: When there is a vacancy on the Court of Special Appeals, the governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office, with the consent of the State Senate. Once appointed, the appellate judge holds the office until the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. At that time, the judge runs for an uncontested election for a ten-year term on their record (yes or no for continuance in office). No one is permitted to file against them. If the incumbent judge is approved, the judge faces another “retention

election" every ten years to continue in office. If the incumbent judge is rejected by the voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment.

Issues

Qualifications: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

Court Needs: What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's court system and how can these be addressed?

Repeat Offenders: What can the courts do to reduce recidivism?

Discrimination: What steps can the courts take to reduce the risk that bias will influence the outcome of legal proceedings?

Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

E. Gregory Wells

Judicial

No response received by deadline.

State Ballot Questions

Maryland State Question 1

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 645 of the 2020 Legislative Session) State Budget Process

(Amending Article II Section 17 and Article III Section 14 and 52 of the Maryland Constitution)

The proposed amendment authorizes the General Assembly, in enacting a balanced budget bill for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to increase, diminish, or add items, provided that the General Assembly may not exceed the total proposed budget as submitted by the Governor.

- o **For the Constitutional Amendment**
- o **Against the Constitutional Amendment**

Origin of the ballot question: The 2020 session of the General Assembly passed legislation (SB 1028) proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the authority of the General Assembly in the budget process. A bill that amends the Maryland Constitution requires a three/fifth vote in each chamber (Maryland Senate and House of Delegates) and approval by a majority of voters at the next general election.

Present Practice: The Maryland Constitution prohibits the General Assembly from increasing any budget item or adding any new items to the Governor's proposed budget for any of the government agencies except the Judicial branch and the operations of the General Assembly itself. The one exception is that it may add to the budget if it enacts a new revenue source to fund additional items. This is a rare occurrence. In addition, it cannot move funds from one agency to another. Therefore, in practice, the General Assembly can only recommend cuts to state agency budgets recommended by the Governor. Once a budget passes the Senate and House, it becomes law and cannot be changed or vetoed by the Governor.

Proposed Change: If passed, the General Assembly could move spending in the budget proposed by the Governor from one agency to another as long as the total amount of the budget does not exceed the total amount in Governor's proposed budget. The General Assembly could also add spending to a new item, as long as other item(s) of the budget are reduced to pay for the new expenditure. This change would begin with the 2024 Budget bill which is presented to the General Assembly in 2023. At that time, the Governor would be given the authority to veto items added or items increased by the General Assembly.

Arguments in Favor:

- The Maryland Legislature has less power in the budget process than any other legislature in the United States.
- Members of the public might have more ability to influence funding for programs of importance to them because they have more opportunities to interact with legislators during the General Assembly Session personally and during committee hearings, than they do to influence the Governor or the state agencies when the budget details are negotiated and finalized for presentation.
- For decades, Republican and Democratic legislators have proposed this change while Governors from both major parties have been in power. The provisions of this bill will not take effect until the election of a new Governor and members of the General Assembly are elected.
- This Constitutional Amendment would not change the current requirement that the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget.

Arguments Against:

- Because the Governor would have the power to enact line item vetoes, there may be more Special Sessions to override those vetoes. Special Sessions come with a cost.
- Because the public will be advocating for new or increased funding for particular programs, legislators could be swayed to support programs that the Governor did not feel should be funded at that level.
- It could take longer to pass a budget.
- Legislators may have more concern about programs that affect their constituents, while the Governor may have a more statewide perspective.

A vote FOR the constitutional amendment means the legislature will be able to adjust spending in the Governor’s budget by reducing some items and increasing others as long as the total amount of spending does not exceed the amount of spending proposed by the Governor.

A vote AGAINST the constitutional amendment means current law would remain in place and the legislature will only be able to reduce the expenditures within the budget proposed by the Governor.

Maryland State Question 2

Commercial Gaming Expansion Referendum (Ch. 492 of the 2020 Legislative Session)

Expansion of Commercial Gaming-Sports and Event Wagering

Do you approve the expansion of commercial gaming in the State of Maryland to authorize sports and events betting for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education?\

- **For the referred law.**
- **Against the referred law.**

Origin of the ballot question: In 2007, the Maryland Constitution was amended to say that the General Assembly may only authorize additional forms or expansion of commercial gambling if approved through a referendum by a majority of the voters in a general election. In 2020 the General Assembly passed SB 04 that would authorize it to pass laws to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in the State if approved by voters in the next General Election. The bill also stated that the primary purpose of this expansion of gambling would be to raise revenue for education.

Present Practice: In 2008 Maryland voters first approved gambling via video lottery terminals (slot machines.) In 2012, voters approved expanding the allowable number of video lottery terminals and authorized table games in casinos. Wagering on a contest, event, game, or match between individuals or teams sponsored by a professional league or association or hosted by a college or university is currently illegal in Maryland.

Proposed Change: If the referendum is approved, the General Assembly would then need to pass legislation that authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue licenses for sports and event wagering in the State. The legislation must include the criteria for eligible applications for a licensee and specify the permissible forms, means of conducting, and locations where sports wagering would take place. The bill that sent this question to the voters also requires a study by the General Assembly to evaluate whether there is reason to assist minorities and women in the sports and event wagering industry and market. This study is to be completed by October 1, 2020 so any recommendations that result can be considered when the General Assembly establishes criteria for licenses (assuming the referendum passes.)

Arguments in Favor:

- Allowing sports betting in Maryland would enable the state to compete with the fourteen states that are already raising revenue this way.
- Illegal sports betting already takes place. Maryland should provide a legal way to place such bets to tap into that market and thereby reduce criminal activity.
- Depending on how it is implemented, Maryland could raise as much as \$20 million a year that could be invested in education which could yield long term benefits for Maryland residents.

Arguments Against:

- Maryland already has legalized a lottery, slot machines and casinos with various gambling table games. This would add another way to raise money from people who may not be able to afford it and may become addicted to gambling.
- If sports betting is implemented in a similar manner to casino gambling, most of the revenue raised will likely go to the gambling venues with only a small portion going to education.
- Sports betting could have an impact on how fans watch games because they could be more interested in making money than appreciating the sport. It could impact the game for players as well, especially if wagering is allowed on college sports.

A vote FOR the referred law means the General Assembly will be able to pass legislation to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in Maryland with a portion of the revenue going to support public education.

A vote AGAINST the referred law means that commercial wagering on sporting events will remain illegal in Maryland.

Local Ballot Questions

Baltimore City Question A

Bond Issue

Affordable Housing Loan

Ballot Language: Ordinance No. 20-375 to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to borrow up to \$12,000,000 to be used for the planning, developing, executing, and making operative the Affordable Housing Program of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, including, but not limited to, the acquisition, by purchase, lease, condemnation or any other legal means, of land or property in the City of Baltimore; the payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with or incidental to the acquisition and management of the land or property; the payment of any and all costs and expenses incurred for or in connection with relocating and moving persons or other legal entities displaced by the acquisition of the land or property, and the disposition of land and property for such purposes, such costs to include but not limited to rental payment and home purchase assistance, housing counseling and buyer education, assistance, and activities to support the orderly and sustainable planning, preservation, rehabilitation, and development

of economically diverse housing in City neighborhoods; support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; support the elimination of unhealthful, unsanitary or unsafe conditions, lessening density, eliminating obsolete or other uses detrimental to the public welfare or otherwise removing or preventing the spread of blight or deterioration in the City of Baltimore; and for doing all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection therewith.

Purpose: Eligible uses include acquisition, preservation, production of new housing, demolition, rental assistance, housing counseling and project finance comprised of loans (including forgivable or fully amortizing) or grants as well as other related activities.

A Vote For allows Baltimore City to issue bonds for these affordable housing purposes..

A Vote Against denies permission to issue bonds for these affordable housing purposes.

Baltimore City Question B

Bond Issue

School Loan

Ballot Language: Ordinance No. 20-376 to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to borrow up to \$38,000,000 to be used for the acquisition of land or property to construct and erect new school buildings, athletic and auxiliary facilities; and for additions and improvements to or modernization or reconstruction of existing school buildings or facilities; and to equip all buildings to be constructed, erected, improved, modernized, or reconstructed; and for doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection therewith.

Purpose: This typically funds systemic improvements, such as fire alarms, HVAC systems, roof replacements, and other urgent needs in schools that are not currently funded through the 21st Century Schools Initiative. The funds may also support major renovation or replacement projects for schools not funded through the 21st Century Schools Initiative.

A Vote For authorizes the city to issue up to \$38,000,000 in bonds for these school construction needs.

A Vote Against denies the city permission to issue bonds for this purpose.

Baltimore City Question C

Bond Issue

Community and Economic Development Loan

Ballot Language: Ordinance No. 0-377 to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to borrow up to \$38,000,000 to be used for, or in connection with, planning, developing, executing and making operative the community, commercial, and industrial economic development programs of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore; the development or redevelopment, including, but not limited to, the comprehensive renovation or rehabilitation of any land or property, or any rights or interests therein hereinbefore mentioned, in the City of Baltimore, and the disposition of land and property for such purposes; the elimination of unhealthful, unsanitary, or unsafe conditions, lessening density, eliminating obsolete or other uses detrimental to the public welfare or otherwise removing or preventing the spread of blight or deterioration in the City of Baltimore; the creation of healthy, sanitary, and safe, and green conditions in the City of Baltimore; and authorizing loans and grants therefore; making loans and grants to various projects and programs related to growing businesses in the City; attracting and retaining jobs; providing homeownership incentives and home repair assistance; authorizing loans and grants to various projects and programs related to improving cultural life and promotion of tourism in

Baltimore City and the lending or granting of funds to any person or other legal entity to be used for or in connection with the rehabilitation, renovation, redevelopment, improvement or construction of buildings and structures to be used or occupied for residential or commercial purposes; and for doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection therewith.

Purpose: This loan is used to eliminate blight through strategic whole block demolition; provide financing and incentives for private investment; and improve the appearance of commercial and industrial areas. Projects may include acquisition and demolition, incentives for home ownership or home repairs, contributions for new affordable housing development, facade improvements for commercial areas, and more.

A Vote For authorizes the city to issue up to \$38,000,000 in bonds to finance Community and Economic Development projects.

A Vote Against denies the city authority to issue these bonds.

Baltimore City Question D

Bond Issue

Public Infrastructure

Ballot Language: Ordinance No. 20-378 to authorize the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to borrow up to \$72,000,000 to be used for the development of public infrastructure owned or controlled by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and the Enoch Pratt Free Library acquisition and development of property buildings owned and controlled by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the Enoch Pratt Library and public park or recreation land, property, buildings, structures or facilities; for the construction, erection, renovation, alteration, reconstruction, installation, improvement and repair of existing or new buildings, structures, or facilities to be or now being used by or in connection with the operations, function and activities of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, public parks and recreational programs; for the construction and development of streets, bridges, courthouses, city office buildings, police stations, fire stations, solid waste facilities, information technology, and public park and recreational and related land property and buildings; for the acquisition and installation of trees, for tree planting programs and for the equipping of any and all existing and new buildings, structures, and facilities authorized to be constructed, renovated, altered or improved by this Ordinance; and for doing any and all things necessary, proper or expedient in connection therewith.

Purpose: Projects include upgrades to public infrastructure including parks, recreation centers, libraries, streets, bridges, courthouses, city office buildings, police stations, fire stations, solid waste facilities, and information technology.:

A Vote For authorizes the city to issue bonds for up to \$72,000,000 to fund public infrastructure projects.

A Vote Against denies the city authority to issue bonds for these projects.

Baltimore City Question E

Charter Amendment

Charter Revision Commission

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-18 would require that a Charter Revision Commission be appointed at least once every 10 years to review and make recommendations for necessary deletions, additions or revisions to the City Charter. The resolution also provides for the terms of the members, the manner of appointment, the duties of the Commission and for the dissolution of the Commission after the completion of its duties.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This amendment was introduced in City Council as City Council Bill 19-0441 in July 2019 for the purpose of providing a comprehensive review of the City Charter by a Charter Revision Commission every 10 years.

Present Practice: There are currently two ways to amend the Charter, both of which require final approval by the voters of Baltimore City. One way originates with a bill of the City Council; the other originates with a petition signed by at least 20% of the qualified voters in the city. Several amendments have been made to the Charter in recent years, but there has been no major revision since 1994.

Proposed Change: This amendment would mandate creating a Charter Review Commission no later than May 1 in the first odd-numbered year of each decade (2021, 2031, 2041, etc.). The Commission will undertake a comprehensive review of the Charter and make recommendations for change, which will be voted on by the voters of Baltimore City. In addition, Interim Commissions may be established by resolution of the Mayor and City Council if needed. Each Commission will be composed of individuals appointed by the Mayor, the President of City Council, the Comptroller, and each member of the City Council. No person holding elective office may be appointed to a Commission.

Arguments in Favor: Having a periodic review of a governmental charter can help to insure an appropriate, efficient government structure, and it focuses civic attention on the operation of local government. Many jurisdictions in Maryland and other states have had a positive experience with periodic charter revision commissions.

Arguments Against: A comprehensive review of a city charter requires a large investment of civic effort and time. Under existing law, amendments to the Charter can be proposed whenever needed.

A vote FOR the charter amendment means that the City Charter will be comprehensively reviewed by a Charter Review Commission at least once every ten years.

A vote AGAINST the charter amendment means that amendments to the City Charter will continue to be proposed as needs appear.

Baltimore City Question F

Charter Amendment

Ordinance of Estimates

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-25 is for the purpose of amending the City Charter in order to authorize the City Council, by majority vote, to increase amounts of spending within the general fund or add new amounts for new purposes, so long as the amounts are not fixed by state or federal law and as long as the amounts added do not exceed the amount the City Council has reduced the proposed ordinance of estimates. New spending items added by City Council must be authorized by separate legislation. After the City Council's reductions and additions are made, the amount of the operating budget and the capital budget cannot exceed the amounts proposed in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.

Origin of the Charter Amendment: The City Council passed Resolution 19-0379 proposing a Charter Amendment authorizing the City Council, by majority vote, to increase spending within the general fund or add new amounts for new purposes

Present Practice: Baltimore City's budget process begins with the Mayor's Office issuing a guidance document identifying City objectives and strategies. City agencies submit responsive budget proposals; the Department of Finance evaluates and ranks agency proposals and makes recommendations to the Mayor and sends the recommended operation budget to the Board of Estimates. The Board of Estimates holds hearings with agency heads, and holds a "Taxpayers' Night" for resident input. A majority vote of the Board of Estimates approves the total budget (operating and capital) and sends it to the City Council, which holds additional hearings on the budget. Under "strong mayor" form of government which has existed in Baltimore for many years, before voting on the budget and sending it to the Mayor, the Council may reduce or eliminate budget items (with limited exceptions), but City Council does not have the authority to increase the amounts fixed by the Board or to add any amount for any new purpose in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates.

Proposed Change: If passed, this Charter Amendment would authorize the City Council, during the budget process, to reduce or eliminate items in the Ordinance of Estimates, and to add new budget items or increase budgeted items, as long as the final operating and capital budgets do not exceed the amounts proposed in the Ordinance of Estimates. Additionally, new spending items added by the City Council must be authorized by separate legislation.

Arguments in Favor: This amendment gives the City Council increased ability to affect provisions in Baltimore's proposed annual budget (the Ordinance of Estimates), which originates with the Mayor. This change would thus give members of the public increased ability to influence city funding because city residents generally have more opportunities to interact with members of City Council than they have with the Mayor. Greater community input into the City's budget process could encourage government to be more responsive and accountable to community needs.

Arguments Against: Citizen advocacy might unduly influence City Council members to support programs that do not align with the City's overall needs and/or its fiscal responsibilities. The City Council currently has the power to reject the Mayor's proposed budget (the Ordinance of Estimates, and then negotiate with the Mayor to make adjustments. Increasing the City Council's authority in the budget process and reducing the Mayor's authority may raise a red flag for bond rating agencies.

A vote FOR the charter amendment means the City Council would have the authority to add items to the City budget, as long as the budget as adjusted by the Council would not be a greater amount than the Ordinance of Estimates presented by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Estimates.

A vote AGAINST the charter amendment means current law would remain in place, and the Council can cut or eliminate budget items but cannot add new budget items or increase budget items.

Baltimore City Question G

Charter Amendment

Veto

Note: *See corrected language following the actual language.*

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-20 would for the purpose of reducing the number of votes by City Council members that are needed to override a mayoral veto from three-fourths of the members of the City Council to two-thirds of those members. It would also eliminate the separate veto process for items of appropriation and instead require the

mayor to veto an entire appropriation bill, not exercise a line item to veto some, but not all, items appropriation in that bill.

Corrected Ballot Language: *Resolution No. 20-20 is for the purpose of reducing the number of votes by City Council members that are needed to override a mayoral veto from three-fourths of the members of the City Council to two-thirds of those members.*

Origin of the Ballot Question: Resolution 20-20 was introduced in City Council as City Council Bill 19-380 on April 29, 2019 for the purpose of reducing the number of votes needed to override a mayoral veto, and also to eliminate, in appropriations bills, the mayor's right to line item vetoes. This second purpose was amended out of the bill during the legislative process and is no longer part of it.

Present Practice: In the current City Council of 15 members, 12 votes are needed to override a mayoral veto.

Proposed Change: The change would provide that 10 votes are sufficient to override a mayoral veto.

Arguments in Favor: Baltimore is generally considered to have a strong mayor/weak City Council government structure. Compared to comparable cities in the U.S., our requirement of a $\frac{3}{4}$ City Council vote to override a mayoral veto is a very high barrier. This amendment would shift the power balance by changing the override requirement to the more common $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Arguments Against: Opponents of this amendment support the current government structure and do not want to make it easier to override the mayor's veto.

A vote FOR the charter amendment means that a vote of 10 members of the City Council will be sufficient to override a mayoral veto.

A vote AGAINST the charter amendment means that a vote of 12 members of the City Council will continue to be needed to override a mayoral veto.

Baltimore City Question H

Charter Amendment Veto Timing

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-21 This resolution amends the City Charter for the purpose of increasing the amount of time in which the City Council can consider overriding a mayoral veto of legislation adopted by the City Council. The City Charter currently allows the City Council to override a mayoral veto no earlier than 5 days, but no more than 20 days, from the date a Mayor's veto is read to the City Council. The amendment would add that if no meeting of the City Council is scheduled during that period, the City Council may override a veto at the next regular meeting of the City Council following the 20-day period. The amendment also provides that a veto cannot be overridden by a City Council that has been newly elected and sworn into office since the passage of the vetoed legislation.

Origin of the Ballot Question: Resolution 20-21 was introduced in the City Council as City Council Bill 19-0467 on November 18, 2019 for the purpose of modifying and clarifying the time within which the Council may consider to override a mayoral veto.

Present Practice: The City Charter currently has no provision for a veto override if more than 20 calendar days have passed since the mayoral veto was read to the City Council.

Proposed Change: The proposed change would allow the City Council to override a mayoral veto at a regular meeting scheduled after the 20-day period, provided there was no regular Council meeting held within the 20-day period, and provided a new City Council has not been elected since the passage of the vetoed resolution.

Arguments in Favor: This Resolution 20-21 would allow additional time for the City Council to override a mayoral veto if no regular City Council meeting was held during the 20-day period.

Arguments Against: Opponents of Resolution 20—21 support the current 20-day time limit for overriding a veto.

A Vote FOR the Charter Amendment means: If no regular meeting of the City Council is held within 20 days after the mayor’s veto is read to the City Council, the Council may still override a veto at a regularly scheduled meeting.

A Vote AGAINST the Charter Amendment Means: The City Council may override a mayoral veto only within the 20-day period after the veto is read to the Council.

Baltimore City Question I

Charter Amendment

Removal of Elected Officials

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-24 amends the City Charter to provide for the removal from office of certain City elected officials. The bill provides that by a three-fourths vote the City Council may remove a council member, the Council President, the Mayor or the Comptroller for incompetency, misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty or felony or misdemeanor in office on charges brought by the Mayor, the City Council Committee on Legislative Investigations or by the Inspector General. Notice and an opportunity to be heard before the City Council are required.

Origin of the Ballot Question: During a mayoral scandal, City Council members could not act on constituents' requests for action to remove a mayor for misconduct.

Present Practice: Under the current City Charter, the City Council, by a two-thirds vote, may remove the Council President from office for incompetency, willful neglect of duty or misdemeanor in office, upon charges preferred by the Mayor and after notice of the charges and opportunity to be heard by the Council are given by the Council. Additionally, under the current City Charter, the members of the City Council can remove the Comptroller by a majority vote for incompetency, willful neglect of duty or misdemeanors in office, upon charges preferred by the Mayor and after notice of the charges and opportunity to be heard by the City Council are given by the Council.

Proposed Change. This charter amendment expands the Council’s removal ability to include City Council members and the Mayor.

Arguments in Favor: If an elected official has lost the confidence of constituents and other elected officials, is under investigation for criminal behavior and takes an extended leave from office but refuses to resign, there should be a mechanism in law to remove the elected official from office prior to a criminal conviction or guilty plea.

Arguments Against: The Maryland Constitution at Art. XV Sec. 2 provides “Any elected official of the State, or of a county or of a municipal corporation who during the elected official's term of office is found guilty of any crime which is a felony, or which is a misdemeanor related to the elected official's public duties and responsibilities and involves moral turpitude for which the penalty may be incarceration in any penal institution, shall be suspended by operation of law without pay or benefits from the elective office....If the conviction becomes final, after judicial review or otherwise, such elected official shall be removed from office by operation of law...” The City Law Department opines that the proposed charter amendment may be in conflict with this Constitutional provision.

A vote FOR allows the City Council to remove a mayor or City Council member for misconduct in office without the necessity of a criminal conviction.

A vote AGAINST requires a Mayor or City Council member to be convicted before being removed from office.

Baltimore City Question J

Charter Amendment

City Auditor

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-22 requires the City Auditor to give copies of agency audits to the agencies that were audited. It would also allow the City Auditor, in the furtherance of his or her duties, to issue subpoenas "to any municipal officer, municipal employee, or any other person receiving City funds" to produce documents.

Origin of the Ballot Question: Members of the City Council became aware that some agencies claimed that they did not receive copies of audits performed on them in a timely fashion. Also, previous auditors had claimed that agency personnel were not always responsive when asked for information required for an audit.

Present Practice: In the vast majority of cases, the Auditor provides each agency that is subject to an audit with a copy of their audit. Some agency personnel are not compliant when asked by the Auditor to present documents.

Proposed Change: The Amendment would codify the current practice of giving copies of audits to the agencies soon after their audits. It would allow the Auditor to subpoena documents from City agencies and personnel as well as from entities outside City government (such as banks that may have account records of City funds). The ability to issue subpoenas would be a beneficial tool for use in investigations.

Arguments in Favor

- Agencies must be given copies of their audits so they can take corrective action if needed.
- Auditors in other cities have the power to issue subpoenas.
- The amendment would help develop a culture of compliance within City agencies when requests for documents are made.
- Entities outside City government will be more responsive when a subpoena is issued.

Arguments Against

- A legal opinion was offered with an amendment to delete references to issuing subpoenas to municipal officers and employees. They cited a potential conflict with Maryland's Public Information Act. However, the City Council declined to accept the amendment.

A vote FOR the charter amendment means the City Auditor will be required to issue copies of all audits to the principal agency audited. The Auditor will be able to issue subpoena for documents from municipal officers and employees and from outside entities.

A vote AGAINST the charter amendment means the City Auditor is not required to issue copies of audits to the principal agencies audited. The Auditor may not issue subpoenas for documents.

Baltimore City Question K

Charter Amendment

City Administrator

Ballot Language: Resolution No. 20-26 would establish the position of City Administrator as the Chief Administrative Officer of Baltimore City. The law would provide for how the City Administrator is appointed and removed and would establish the powers and duties of the City Administrator. The City Administrator would be required to appoint a Deputy City Administrator and certain other staff.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This bill was introduced in April of 2019 with the primary objective of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of city government by establishing a

new position of administrative chief to coordinate and oversee the day-to-day operations of mayoral agencies.

Present Practice: The Mayor is currently both the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for overseeing the functioning of executive agencies, including hiring and firing staff, preparing the annual operating budget, and implementing legislation passed by the City Council. The Mayor sits on the Board of Estimates and can veto legislation. He or she also has frequent ceremonial duties, both planned and unplanned. In times of crisis, citizens look to the Mayor for leadership. Although the Mayor currently has several deputies to assist with administrative issues, there is no professionally trained individual to analyze current practices.

Proposed Change: A City Administrator would devote time to assessing the mission, structure, and performance of mayoral agencies with a view to improve their functioning. This will enable the Administrator to make recommendations for improvement and to prepare a rational operating budget for the mayor and city council to review. The Administrator would also coordinate and carry out policy developed by the Mayor.

Arguments in Favor: Proponents point out that an overwhelming proportion of US cities with populations above 2500 utilize a professional administrator to manage routine operations. A professionally trained manager who serves at the pleasure of the Mayor assures accountability. Separating out the administrative from the executive aspects of governing will enable the Mayor to develop a vision for Baltimore and establish meaningful policies for improving our public schools, reducing crime, and attracting new jobs.

Arguments Against: Those not supporting this amendment cite an unnecessary extra layer of bureaucracy to accomplish what is already being done in Baltimore. This also means additional expenditures for the new position and staff. It could be politically difficult to remove a City Administrator who has cultivated a network of allies. Finally, it is possible to hire a professional City Administrator without a charter amendment as long as it is subject to Mayoral appointment and removal.

A Vote FOR the Charter Amendment Means that the Mayor would concentrate on executive rather than administrative functions.

A Vote AGAINST the Charter Amendment Means that the mayor would continue to have responsibility for both executive and administrative functions.

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