

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Peter Franchot

Briefly tell your personal story and why you are seeking this elected public service position. (Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words)

I became a public servant because I wanted to level the playing and improve the quality of life for all Marylanders. My time in the military solidified this call by teaching me strength in teamwork, success through sacrifice, and the discipline to overcome challenges in order to pursue justice. Since then, I have worked day-in and day-out to be a champion for citizens and communities whose voices have been ignored. I will put the people over political rhetoric. I have been guided by three pillars of customer service - respect, responsiveness, and results— and as Governor, I will maintain the same commitment to our communities. I am running for Governor because I want Maryland to become the leading state in our nation— known by all as a bastion of economic and social fairness. I can bring my experience as Comptroller into the Governor’s Office to make Maryland a more prosperous state in which generational wealth and opportunity become hallmarks.

What are the 2 or 3 biggest challenges facing Maryland (or your district), and briefly describe how would you address those challenges over the next four years? (Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words)

The Governor must have an integrative approach to address challenges within the State. We need to empower students and teachers, generate family-supporting jobs, foster safe communities, and make Maryland a leader in addressing climate change. Marylanders have trusted me to guide our finances as comptroller, and I have delivered results that improved the quality of life for all Marylanders.

Most recently, I called for a gas tax holiday to alleviate the financial burden of rising gas prices for hard-working families. This has put money back into people’s pockets. My priority will be to make the government efficient at tackling the kitchen table issues in every sector.

To restore trust in government, within the first six months of my term, I will fix every pothole and clean all the trash on state roads, and answer every Marylander’s call to state agencies within 60-seconds with a live, friendly, trained professional. This trust will establish buy-in as we then implement landmark policies such as creating 100,000 family-supporting jobs by partnering with the private sector and

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

unions, building a world-class transit system, and making Maryland the first net-zero state in the country through initiatives such as converting the entire fleet of state vehicles to electric.

*Baltimore and Maryland are blessed to have so many committed foundations and non-profits. How can government better support the work of these non-profits in providing the care and services needed by vulnerable Marylanders?
(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)*

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

*Over the past several years, we have seen a rise of hate and antisemitism in schools, college campuses, and the general community. What could you as an elected official do to help combat this alarming trend?
(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)*

I have no tolerance for hate, and antisemitism must have a special focus from leadership. People who commit hate crimes will be held accountable. Our state troopers, U.S. Marshalls, local government, education professionals, and my newly introduced Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will work in tandem to solicit input on pressing concerns, and proactively address them so that they do not reach crisis points. I will also ensure our classrooms and curriculums reflect our society. We must work with parents and education professionals on a sustained basis to prepare students to engage in our diverse, modern world.

*Do you support continuing the initiatives begun by the state over the past several years to provide security grants to faith institutions, schools, and other entities that are threatened by hate crimes?
(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)*

Yes. I am committed to increasing the budget for the State's grant programs to better support nonprofits, and establishing a revolving fund that quickly reimburses them for the important work they do in our communities, especially in times of need or crisis.

For more than three decades, Maryland and the Jewish community have jointly invested in developing a flourishing business relationship between our state and Israel – creating jobs and economic activity both here and there. As part of that

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

BALTIMORE
JEWISH
COUNCIL 

 100
1920
2020
The Associated
Jewish Federation of Baltimore

relationship, Governor Hogan signed an executive order in 2017 prohibiting all executive branch agencies from entering into contracts or conducting official state business with any entity unless they certify that they will not engage in a boycott of Israel during the duration of the contract.

<https://governor.maryland.gov/2017/10/23/governor-larry-hogan-signs-executive-order-strengthening-marylands-opposition-to-bds-movement-against-israel/>

Do you support maintaining and enforcing this executive order?

(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)

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

Over the past several years, Maryland has created the BOOST program – a scholarship opportunity to assist low-income families in attending non-public schools. Do you support continuing the BOOST program?

(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)

I will be an education-oriented governor, and I am committed to improving all of Maryland's public schools so that they are world class options for every zip code. That said, I have committed to continuing and doubling the funding for BOOST. I do believe we need to take care to ensure these funds are allocated on the basis of need, however, and that funds are received by schools that offer a welcoming environment for all students.

What are your 2 or 3 biggest priorities to help protect the environment?

(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)

As the federal government does with its Climate Envoy, I am committed to creating a cabinet-level position that will work hand-in-hand with our state agencies to develop a vision for Maryland's environmental health. I will sign two executive orders that require all energy consumed by state government entities to be created by one-hundred percent renewable energy where possible, with a mandate for full conversion by the end of my first term; and require more renewable energy to be created within Maryland than all energy consumed within the state. Ultimately, my goal is to make Maryland the first net-zero State.

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

BALTIMORE
JEWISH
COUNCIL 

100 1920 2020
The Associated
Jewish Federation of Baltimore