

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Ralph Jaffe

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)

In 1992, I started a MOVEMENT to get rid of widespread corruption in Maryland politics and bring in real ethical reform in the political system. I developed a set of principles which I believe are essential for accomplishing the objective. Putting this journey for justice into high gear, as a TEACHER, not a politician, I've run for political office in the last seven elections- for governor or senator, as part of my teaching strategy to demonstrate by action, not just words, what needs to be done to put an end to moral bankruptcy in government - refuse campaign contributions, serve 1 term, no salary, tell the whole truth, avoid professional lobbyists. I've talked the talk, and I'm walking the walk.

My budget by design does not exceed \$499.00 Campaign contributions, which I refuse to take, are disguised bribes. I believe all that money raised by career politicians could be put to better use by distributing it to the poor and needy in our state.

Although I haven't been elected, I've "won" the campaigns because they were conducted based on the 5 principles I espouse. The goal is to create a new standard of conduct for future politicians to do what is right for their constituents instead of what they want or themselves.

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)

Dealing with unrelenting surge in violence in Baltimore City. I would consider calling out the National Guard, on a temporary basis, but also an extended period of time. However, because it's essential to listen to constituents I would work with community activists and listen to their specific plans as well. But formulation and implementation of a specific plan is imperative.

No question about it - there's a severe shortage of police. Constituents assert more officers need to be patrolling the streets. The media are always claiming they are part of our community and are working for us. Therefore, I would ask all forms of media - TV and radio stations, newspapers, magazines, etc. - to participate in

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rotating annual telethons - with the money raised going toward the hiring of more police officers.

Implementation of Jaffe Tutor-Mentor TEAM Program throughout Maryland. It's designed for students in all walks of life in need of help - special focus on students a step away from dropping out of school, turning to the streets, and resorting to criminal activity. The long term connection - from the first time the student and TEAM meet until the student graduates from high school and/or college and becomes gainfully employed - is a key factor in helping the student build up his/her self-esteem and feels like somebody instead of nobody.

Introduction of a bill, SIX TO ONE, in the state legislature - that is, no more than six patients receiving care from 1 nurse's aide

*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.)*

The government should leave them alone.

*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.)*

Call for a conference of leaders from all the major religious organizations throughout the state to participate in a 5 day seminar for coming up with nongovernmental measures for immediate implementation.

*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.

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 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

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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.)

Yes.

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.)

Yes.

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

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

A better mass transportation system

A more effective drivers' education program

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