

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: David Lashar

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 believe that our slow-but-steady progress in liberty, justice, and prosperity for all in Maryland and America is in dire jeopardy. And the reason is not what the two big parties are telling us. The reason is the two big parties themselves. I am therefore standing as a principled, accomplished, and civil alternative to their us-against-them politics.

I am a family man and an IT executive who has served with distinction in both the legislative and executive branches of government at both the federal and state levels. My wife has spent her own career in environmental protection and natural resources. We live in Annapolis with our teenaged daughter.

As mentioned above, I believe that neither of the two established parties is representative of who we in Maryland actually are and who we really want to become. I am committed to expanding opportunity for all Marylanders, promoting accountability amongst both individuals & authorities, and extending civility to all fellow citizens.

In addition to family life, I enjoy gardening and cooking, with low-and-slow BBQ being a specialty of mine.

My running mate is Christiana Logansmith, who with her husband owns and runs a commercial cleaning business that the two of them launched in 1991 after both serving in the US Navy, then settling in Maryland. Christiana is a devoted parent who is active in the community. She is standing for Lt. Governor in order to be a force for economic revitalization and a voice for accountability & civility.

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 foremost issue for Maryland is 1) the politics of resentment and division coming from Democrats and Republicans alike, and 2) the policies of intrusion into personal

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decisions and private endeavor (including non-profit organizations) again coming from Democrats and Republicans alike.

As Maryland Governor, I will be different.

I will be genuinely inclusive in my politics, because I respect and embrace all persons of goodwill regardless of their race, gender, sexuality, religion, politics, or wealth. I will be restrained in my policies, because I carry faith in the ability of individuals and organizations to make decisions for themselves and those who depend upon them.

For policy, Christiana and I will move in the short term to roll back the gas taxes and sales taxes that bite hardest on lower-income Marylanders, especially during inflationary times. We will promote a vibrant democracy by protecting free speech, advancing term limits, limiting emergency health powers, and creating a commission to find the right balance between access to the ballot and confidence in election outcomes. Recognizing the disparate impact of the war on drugs on the Black community, we will launch a review of non-violent criminals in state prisons for potential return to the community.

Longer term, we will prioritize school choice, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, clean energy (and Bay!), and a favorable investment environment for small businesses and large corporations alike. We will seek to reduce violence and provide humane support to those suffering addiction by pursuing an end to the failed war on drugs.

*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.)*

Based not only on my political philosophy but also on my experience leading operations and technology at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for 2+ years, I am massively in support of expanding the portion of care and services to the needy that is delivered through non-profits.

This support comes from my belief and my experience that non-profits bring a level of innovation and accountability that monopoly government agencies cannot bring. Quite simply, I would as Governor seek to put as much funding for supports and services through non-profits as I could manage.

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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.)

More than anything, I can serve as a voice and a force... a role model... for the traditional liberal values of moderation and tolerance.

One reason for believing that I might indeed be able to serve in this way is that I am tied neither to the two established political parties, with all of their mutual hostility, nor to the PACs, lobbyists, and elites who fund the campaigns of the big-party candidates. I am instead a principled third-party candidate with no stake in promoting the agitations that typically serve one or the other of the big party's political interests.

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 do, including for media outlets as one of the "other entities." If not already the case, these initiatives ought to include substantial training as well as security equipment and police coverage.

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 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.)

Even though I find the leading group for boycotting Israel to be expressing antisemitic narratives and promoting antisemitic policies, I support the group's right to free speech and assembly. Thus, as much as I recognize that the Baltimore Jewish Council will be disappointed, I do not support Gov. Hogan's executive order, which I regard an excessive infringement on fundamental rights.

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That said, please allow me to emphasize that if elected Governor, I vow that I would apply this principle even-handedly. I reject, for example, the idea that any person should forfeit their fundamental rights by virtue of having stepped onto a campus or into a classroom. Thus, I would insist upon the right to speech for pro-Israel speakers who might be invited to, say, the University of Maryland's campus.

*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 not only support continuation of the BOOST program. I support significant expansion of the BOOST program.

*What are your 2 or 3 biggest priorities to help protect the environment?
(Please limit your answer to no more than 100 words.)*

In regard to the climate, I believe that we face a formidable challenge but not an imminent catastrophe. Why do I believe so? Because I have taken the time actually to read the UN Climate Panel's recent Assessment Reports, which are "the science" referenced in the media.

If we take actions driven by reason instead of panic, we will avert catastrophe.

What kind of action? As a partial answer: Clean energy that is reliable and affordable, drawn from a diverse portfolio of sources that includes options like modern modular nuclear and low-emission natural gas. The market is already bringing new options for households and businesses. We need to let it continue to do so.