

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Regg J Hatcher

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 have always been interested in politics, and I feel that the time has come for me to offer myself as a servant in the public arena. I am running for Delegate because our district is at a point where we need leaders who are going to do more than the bare minimum and maintain the status quo. The community deserves leaders who will fight to help struggling Marylanders who are feeling the effects of inflation and who are still recovering from job losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I am hopeful that I can bring new innovative ideas straight from the constituents of the 10th District to the Maryland House of Delegates.

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 most pressing issues in the 10th District are:

- The 10th District has experienced multiple violent crimes. I will make it my goal as a State Delegate to propose bills that will help local governments, police agencies, and communities to curb this dangerous trend. Additionally, I will collaborate with the police to develop relationships within our community while making sure over-policing does not occur and that all individuals are treated fairly and equitably.
- Multiple areas in the 10th District are becoming food deserts. I will work with the Governor, State Commissioner, and the Baltimore County government to target food-based small businesses to attract them to the district.

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.)

Maryland should institute a grant program that would fund many of the local foundations and non-profits in Maryland that are providing care and services needed by Maryland's vulnerable. The program should stress and regulate the milestones set by each program to ensure that the grants are truly being used correctly by each foundation and non-profit.

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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.)

- **Work with local police agencies to make sure that hate crime reports are vetted quickly when they are placed. We need to ensure an intelligence team is formed to make sure these types of reports are reviewed for accuracy in a matter of hours, this will allow the police departments to stay on top of hate crime issues in Maryland.**
- **Work with FBI and other federal government agencies to make sure they are not seeing chatter from domestic terrorist organizations.**
- **Work with community leaders and community safe groups to make sure neighborhoods are safe**

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.)

- **With the recent increase in violence at many faith institutions and schools, it is more important than ever to provide security grants to these institutions. The security grants will allow funding for security staff, security equipment, such as cameras, electronic monitoring devices, etc.**

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.)

[No Response]

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 support funding our public schools and believe having strong public schools will increase the successfulness and wellness of the surrounding community
- I support a scholarship to help low-income families to attend non-public schools on a case-by-case basis.

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

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

- Advocate cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half within the next 8 to 10 years. This can be achieved by updating Maryland's public transportation system and making it more accessible to residents.
- Work with corporate engineering companies to help Maryland move to clean energy sources (windmills, solar panel farms, rechargeable batteries, etc.) for home and transportation needs.
- Convert most state owned vehicles to hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and purchase electric vehicles to have the state vehicle fleet run on clean energy.
- Build more bike trails to connect residential communities, schools and employers.

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