

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Cheryl Pasteur

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)

For the last three plus years, particularly as a former School Board member and through my studies in the School of Theology, I have experienced, in a very different human context, why too many children are left disenfranchised, too often dismissed, and way too often victimized. I have come to realize that truly our global survival will only be through our ability and willingness to understand that education and environmental justice and condition must be in the forefront of how we teach children, take care of our elders, stop accepting poverty as a human condition, better care for the planet, and not being comfortable with the -isms which seem to be engulfing our society. ALL are on the table for discussion and remedy in the General Assembly...all of the time. I want to have a voice in the discussions for the interests of my neighbors.

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)

District 11 is very diverse in age, population, ethnicity, and race. The district includes the Owings Mills corridor with retail stores, restaurants, and recreation and entertainment options. Metro Centre offers a compact lifestyle model with a community college, library, numerous amenities, and near a transportation hub. Pikesville is an older community with an exciting town center development being designed on the grounds of the historic Pikesville Armory. Across I-83, District 11, is more suburban in design and pace but near the bustle of Towson. This describes a looming issue: transportation to tie these areas together, to move residents, workers, visitors in and out of the district in ways to eliminate congestion. The partnership to continue the Dolfield extension project must continue; options for mini-transportation options should be explored to move shoppers and visitors around this diverse district reducing traffic on the Reisterstown corridor.

On another note, Milbrook Elementary must have the same attention as other schools in the district. Where some schools are on the MYIPAS list for various facility reasons, Milbrook is not. There must be follow through on the listed projects but attention to Milbrook; I would offer support and look for funding for the renovations or the new building Milbrook deserves!

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*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.)*

Certainly, Maryland's non-profits expand the opportunities for all manner of services for residents. We need non-profits. In Maryland, there are strict laws and guidelines for these organizations. Like so much when connected with the government, there are a number of rules and policies to follow; these need to be followed to ensure honesty and integrity in the services rendered. That means having guidelines which are easy to follow or being attached to human and material supports given to create and forge the partnership. The most vulnerable need these services to be reputable and readily accessible!

*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.)*

The rise in hate speech, hate words, and acts of violence are engulfing the country. Certainly, as an elected official, I will work with law enforcement to stem the violence, to include, but not limited to gun laws, hate crime penalties, means of self and group protection; what must happen, as well, is to work with groups of people to attempt to eliminate the root and historical causes; this might mean education programs with psychologists, social workers, etc. for children and teens in schools and in gathering places. This might mean new and, maybe, unlikely partnerships.

*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.)*

I support initiatives which offer security for faith and education institutions. More and more, we are seeing places of worship and schools being attacked. That they are subjects of hate crimes, they are, also, easy targets, in general. Funding is a major part of stemming these acts of violence by securing licensed and armed personnel, training on how to secure facilities, how to be more observant, what to do in an armed or take over situation, who to contact, how to recognize the various forms and signs of hate generated actions prior to physical attacks, etc.

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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.)

I support the executive order and think it should be extended to any entity which is recognized by this country/state as legitimate in its business practices, governance, and partnerships and not influenced by individual or group biases or “isms”.

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 believe in the BOOST scholarship program when the school demonstrates it is giving a quality education at the school. When the school has standards of learning, which are measureable, Boost gives students whose families are economically disenfranchised a chance. It should be funded because all children deserve a chance at success. I appreciate that for some schools, the privatization of the schools have cultural and prescribed religious tenets which serve the needs and growth of the students more effectively than public schools. That being the case, there is a need for BOOST.

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

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

Environmental issues need immediate attention. Goal #1 is never to see the deaths we witnessed during the pandemic by getting serious about how we live and how to make improvements. We must reduce carbon emissions and find renewable sources. We need EDUCATION on what that means to be a part of the solution. For now, we depend on legislation to get us to 60% reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2045. GOAL#2 is environmental justice, (“injustice”)... giving strong attention to the impact of poverty; poor - housing, air quality, and water purity; lead poisoning, etc., protecting the vulnerable.

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