

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Stephanie Boston

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 am a widowed mother of 3 and educator of 25 plus years from Middletown, Ohio. I have a BS in Elementary Education, MS in Educational Leadership and currently working on my dissertation in Educational Leadership, Curriculum/Instruction. All of my life I have volunteered with civic and public school organizations which has brought me great joy. Being raised by my grandparents, civic responsibility was instilled in me. Having the ability to listen, collaborate and problem solve are key characteristics in a leader. I am seeking this position to make the constituents' lives in District 10 better. Improving senior resources, better public transportation and addressing the rising crime in our area are my top priorities when elected.

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 biggest challenge in District 10 is the lack of Senior citizen resources with 55% of our district 55 years of age or older this group of constituents needs must be met. Increasing the budget of the Department of Aging, increasing affordable senior housing, and more assistance to families with senior members are some of the challenges that our district faces.

The second challenge facing our district is to address the increased congestion on our roads in our area. Seventy-six percent of the citizens in the district drive their own personal vehicles which is contributing to the congestion, air pollution and several other environmental concerns. Increasing public transportation in our district will allow people not only to park their cars but save money and the environment.

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.)

Government can support the work of these nonprofits that provide crucial social services to vulnerable populations by increasing funding . While non-profits are

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dependent upon the public sector for funding, the government is dependent on the non-profit sector to provide services to its constituents.

*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.)*

As an elected official I will collaborate with other state and local officials, educators, advocates, clergy, and other stakeholders to create policies that combat antisemitism

*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 will continue to support the initiative to provide security grants to faith institutions, schools and other entities that are threatened by hate crimes.

*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.)*

Yes, I support maintaining and enforcing this executive order.

*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, I would continue the BOOST program. The program has provided k-12 students from lower-income Maryland families better opportunities to find the best educational fit for their families.

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

- Reducing car emissions/ use by improving and increasing public transportation.
- Protecting the Cheasepeake Bay by enforcing the existing laws that were established to punish entities that polluted the Bay.
- Protecting Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) by limiting urban development.

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