

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Mavourene Robinson

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 grew up with societal and familial challenges, but through perseverance and opportunities that are only available in America I have an earned Master's degree; have homeschooled an exceptional child and have experienced the blessing of the American dream. I am running to serve Marylanders, because the encroachment of bigotry and anti-American ideologies must be confronted by those whose personal experience exposes the falsehoods of ethnic bigotry and anti-American politics.

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)

1. **Community Safety/Increasing Crime** – I will consider how/which current Maryland law(s) and policy(s) have a causative effect on crime categories, and will advance legislation to mitigate those risks and to support quality Law Enforcement and strong communities. This includes traffic and lack of road maintenance on side streets and rural routes, and corresponding negative effect on the quality of life within the communities.

2. **Attacks against the family, parental rights and school choice** – According to NAEP, 4th grader proficiency in Reading dropped 5 score points and in Math dropped 2 points from 2017 to 2019. In 2019 only 28% of Maryland 4th graders were proficient in Math and 35% scored proficient in Reading. Maryland students scored less in other categories. I will consider how/which current Maryland law(s) and policy(s) are hindering student proficiency and will partner with committed experts to implement a reversal of course on behalf of Maryland children.

3. **Inflation and Cost of Living (COLA) that is eroding family wealth and intergenerational community stability** – Maryland is one of the most taxed States in America. My staff will review current taxes, registration/licensing/fee structures, small business mandates, and punitive fine structures to identify opportunities to loosen the stranglehold on working families.

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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.)*

I believe that government should be a facilitator, not the primary funding for private foundations and non-profits. To the extent that some current government requirements have placed administrative and regulatory burdens upon these foundations, there should be targeted and actionable steps toward removing those burdens. Doing so frees the many committed donors, volunteers and staff of these foundations and non-profits to expand the reach of their impact and support to their constituency.

*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.)*

Antisemitism, or anti-Zionism as it is now labeled, must be addressed with the truth and without apology. I would resist any attempts to delegitimize the right to Israel's existence or the equal rights of our Maryland's Jewish community from inside of Maryland's General Assembly. We are a State whose Constitutional rights must not be abridged for any reason. If elected, I will have the courage to say "NO" to the idea that any ethnic group of people should be removed, marginalized or otherwise subjugated to the demands of another ethnic group.

*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 the idea, but would want the opportunity to consider the efficacy based upon outcomes. For example, how are these grants awarded? Are the grants and the grant requirements sufficient to deter hate crimes? How might we leverage existing grant dollars in ways that will mitigate the risk of hate crimes against institutions and simultaneously address the policies that are feeding the rising in hate crime in Maryland?

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

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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 absolutely support this anti-BDS legislation, and will work with the Jewish community to ensure enforcement that deters the continuation of this effort in Maryland.

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 continuing BOOST with some modification to expand choice in districts that are not well represented and that will improve student outcomes, helping to better prepare students for life success.

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

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

1. I have read reports that funds for environmental protection efforts aren't always used for the most direct environmental protection efforts. To that end, I will ask for audits to better equip the dedicated non-profit and volunteer organizations with using the funds in ways that directly protect and clean the environment.

2. Heavy handed, free-enterprise ending environmental legislation has not been shown to reduce pollution or to heal the environment. Consequently, I would commit to working with industry leaders to propose common-sense State level efforts, addressing environmental issues and implementing outcome based rewards.

3. Additional creativity, ingenuity and outcome driven efficacy is needed. Rather than State-level funding for large and unproven or in some cases disproven environmental projects, Maryland still has the opportunity and the talent to sponsor micro invention projects on a small scale, and to use the outcome to determine when and how much to invest on a larger scale for proven projects. I will propose, support and vote to implement this kind of effort.

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