

2022 Baltimore Jewish Council Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Doug Gansler

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 the only viable Jewish candidate and will approach everything I do through the lens of our shared Jewish values.

As your two-term attorney general and a federal, state and local prosecutor for 22 years, I am the most experienced candidate in the field and am uniquely qualified to make Maryland safe.

Among other things, we will hire 1,000 new police officers for the streets, all of whom will be trained in de-escalation; place a school resource officer in every school to keep your children safe; put 10,000 lights on the streets of Baltimore; laser-target the prosecution of gun crimes; establish drug and domestic violence courts in all 24 jurisdictions; and fully implement community prosecution and community policing throughout Maryland.

As I did when I spearheaded the state effort for marriage equality, I will demonstrate the courage to be a brick wall in our defense of abortion rights. Experience matters. The path of my Lt. Governor Candace Hollingsworth, who as Mayor of Hyattsville led her city out of dysfunction and into a bright future, would have been much different without access to safe abortion care.

Finally, the environment was my top priority as attorney general; we will catapult Maryland to be the East Coast leader in the fight against climate change.

For any of this to happen, we need to nominate a pro-business, pro-law enforcement moderate Democrat who can actually defeat Republican Kelly Schulz in what will be an incredibly Republican year. I am that Democrat.

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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)

Crime

Crime is exploding across Maryland. I am the only candidate with the experience and the plan to tackle crime on Day One, including by hiring 1,000 police officers, putting 10,000 lights in Baltimore City, and getting guns off our streets. I am a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense candidate, and I will refer violent felons who are in possession of guns to federal court where there are tougher sentences. Please see SafeMaryland.com for my full crime plan.

Protecting Abortion Rights in Maryland

Experience matters in the fight to defend abortion rights in Maryland. As Attorney General, I stood up to the Bush administration when they tried to roll back abortion access through the federal rulemaking process, protected Obamacare, and won a case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court 9-0. The path of my Lieutenant Governor Candace Hollingsworth, who was the first Black mayor of Hyattsville, would have been much different without access to safe legal abortion. We will enshrine abortion rights in our Constitution, expand abortion access in all of Maryland's jurisdictions, and unfreeze funds for the Abortion Clinical Training program, and we will not extradite women from Maryland or communicate with law enforcement regarding abortion in states that criminalize the procedure.

However, if we do not elect a Democrat governor, Roe will not be protected. As the only pro-business, pro-law enforcement moderate Democrat in the race, I am the Democrats' best chance of taking on the pro-life Kelly Schulz in November.

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 founded Charm City Lacrosse, a Baltimore non-profit, to provide opportunities and mentorship to Baltimore youth both on and off the field. I have also served on the Boards of Year Up and CollegeBound, so I have a deep understanding and respect for these organizations, which often deliver services more effectively than the government does.

I will work in close partnership with our non-profits to ensure that they have the funding they need to best serve their communities. I will also work with our non-profits to identify and remove unnecessary red tape and other barriers.

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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.)

We must start by making sure Jewish Marylanders feel safe in their communities and in their schools. My [Safe Maryland plan](#) provides for the hiring of 1,000 more police, who will be trained in how to recognize and respond to hate crimes. I will also fund at least one armed school resource officer in every school to keep our children, faculty and support staff safe.

We must also teach the truth of history in our schools, including the Holocaust, and provide schools the resources they need to build safe and inclusive environments where hate and anti-Semitism are not tolerated.

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. As both a Jewish man and as a prosecutor who has dedicated my career to fighting violent crime, this issue is deeply personal to me.

As Montgomery County State's Attorney and as Attorney General, I worked with Shomrim and the leadership of Ner Israel to combat crime targeted against the Orthodox community. As governor, I will provide state support for security at synagogues and other houses of worship if desired by their leadership. It will not be an added tax that Jewish Marylanders face for going to shul.

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 oppose the BDS movement against Israel and will maintain and enforce the executive order.

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I look forward to further strengthening the economic partnership between Maryland and Israel. In fact, my first international business trip as governor will be my fourth trip to Israel. When I was in 10th grade, I lived on a kibbutz in the north of Israel and it left a great impression on me. I also had the honor of meeting Shimon Peres in Israel when I led a delegation to Israel as Attorney General.

*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. Not only will I continue the BOOST program, I will expand it. The state is flush with cash right now, and we can adequately fund our public schools while still investing in BOOST so that Jewish and other religious schools are accessible to parents who want to make that choice for their children. I will also invest in security, nurses, and mental health professionals for Jewish schools and all schools eligible for 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.)*

I was known as the Environmentalist Attorney General, and I will do the work to be known as the Environmentalist Governor. That means cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and putting Maryland on a solid path to a 100 percent clean energy economy. My 32-point [Green Maryland Plan](#), which has been called “ambitious” by the publication Maryland Matters, includes planks to expand mass transit, incentivize the construction of electric vehicle charging stations, and develop a state-of-the-art plant that will convert the poultry waste getting dumped into the Bay each year into renewable energy.

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