



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

GBC's 2020 Baltimore City Election Coverage
City Council President Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE: NICK MOSBY (D)

The Greater Baltimore Committee has identified key policy priorities to drive discussion in the 2020 Citywide Elections. The priorities are:

1. Prioritize enhanced coordination across criminal justice agencies and support evidence-based crime reduction strategies to improve public safety.
2. Implement strategic and inclusive economic development strategies to attract and retain businesses and residents.
3. Exert solid, steady leadership to stabilize Baltimore City government and create a culture of integrity, transparency, and efficiency.
4. Support education and workforce development programs that prepare Baltimore residents for family-supporting jobs in high-growth industries and create programs or initiatives to attract talent to Baltimore City.
5. Utilize policy, funding, and intergovernmental coordination strategies to enhance Baltimore City's transportation and mobility infrastructure and operations.

Disclaimer: As a 501(c)4 organization, the Greater Baltimore Committee does not endorse candidates for public office. The information contained on this page and all engagement activities surrounding the election are for educational purposes only.

1. Prioritize enhanced coordination across criminal justice agencies and support evidence-based crime reduction strategies to improve public safety.

- **What legislative actions, if any, would you propose as City Council President to reduce crime and improve public safety in the City?**

- *Deploying and investing in evidence based violence reduction strategies similar to the model deployed in Chicago.*
- *Utilizing CitiStat to create data driven methods that target Baltimore's violent repeat offenders.*
- *Investing in the Warrant Apprehension Unit so that the officers have the resources they need to get violent offenders off the streets.*

- **How would you allocate City budget dollars to crime reduction and public safety efforts? Please be specific regarding funding levels and programs compared to the current budget.**

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Our public safety budget is significantly higher than any other city agency. We must utilize the existing funding level and drive a better return on that investment. I am committed to working with the administration and Police Commissioner to identify opportunities that support sustainable reduction of crime.

2. Implement strategic and inclusive economic development strategies to attract and retain businesses and residents.

- **Do you have ideas or suggestions to reform the property tax structure in the City?**

- *Separating the property tax and waste disposal costs, allowing for a (8.7%) property tax reduction for owner occupied properties and non-owner occupied properties.*
- *Offering tax credit portability for homes purchased in the City.*
- *Offering property tax reductions for police officers, first responders and municipal employees who purchase homes in the City.*

- **What are your top three priorities or programs to grow Baltimore's tax base?**

- *Offering new resident vacant property tax credit program.*
- *Developing opportunity zone tax credit overlay programs in transformational areas.*
- *Developing opportunity zone live where you work incentives to drive investment and residential recruitment.*

3. Exert solid, steady leadership to stabilize Baltimore City government and create a culture of integrity, transparency, and efficiency.

- **Baltimore City is at a crossroads and in need of strong, ethical leadership. Why are you the best candidate to lead the City Council into a new decade and chapter?**

Our city needs competent, committed, and experienced leadership, now more than ever. It's critical for the next President of the Baltimore City Council to understand the inner-workings of local and state government budgeting, appropriations, and operations, as well as, having established statewide relationships to promote Baltimore's opportunities and challenges for continued state support. I have experienced tremendous amount of legislative success not only as a member of the Baltimore City Council but also as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. My public service experience overlapped with my professional experiences as a electrical engineer sets me far apart from my opponents.

- **What are three actions that you would take to improve transparency and efficiency in the City Council operations and across City government as a whole?**

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- *Creating a City Procurement Office that centralizes procurement oversight, and introducing legislation that codifies a transparent procurement process.*
- *Creating offices of Contract and Project Management to ensure that major capital projects are completed on time and on budget, reducing cost variances that have contributed to Baltimore's overspending.*
- *Creating the Mayor's Office of Data and Analysis to reinvigorate CitiStat and institutionalize data driven decision-making.*

- **How would you structure the Council under your leadership to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the City Council most effectively and efficiently?**

Presently one of the greatest deficiencies on the City Council is the lack of resources and support in order to perform detailed policy analyses of proposed legislation and initiatives. As a result many efforts are forwarded without a thorough understanding of the budgetary impacts that will be brought to bear on the city and its residents. It is imperative that the Office of Council Services perform more like the Maryland Department of Legislative Services. The Office of Council Services along with the Office of Legislative Reference must have the capacity to perform, for all members of the Council, legal and legislative research, fiscal analyses and reviews and analyses of legislation and resolutions proposed by the Administration. Without this the Council's ability to evaluate and propose strategies and solutions for the city's most pressing needs is greatly hampered.

- **Several charter amendments have been proposed and are pending legislative review and approval.**
 - **What is your position on the composition and function of the Board of Estimates?**

I would support a BOE restructuring proposal that is aligned with many other cities, municipalities, and state government with a board make up of three elected officials, Mayor, City Council President, and Comptroller.

- **What is your position on granting the City Council with the authority to increase or move appropriations in budget category?**

I am open to exploring legislative solutions to modifying council authorities to increase or move budget appropriations.

- 4. Support education and workforce development programs that prepare Baltimore residents for family-supporting jobs in high-growth industries and create programs or initiatives to attract talent to Baltimore City.**
 - **Under the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, Baltimore City stands to receive an additional \$500 million annually in State education aid by Fiscal 2030. In order to receive this additional funding, Baltimore City must increase its investment as well, by \$330 million annually by Fiscal 2030. According to Maryland Department of Legislative Services figures, Baltimore City currently**

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spends less than 15% of its budget on education compared to a statewide average of 36%. What do you propose the City should do to meet the increased funding obligations? Please be specific in identifying areas or agencies that will see reduced appropriations as well as revenues that may be increased.

Every dollar the City spends must help Baltimore grow, every City department must demonstrate results, and the business of government must embrace unyielding ethics. We will achieve these goals by bringing 21st century management practices and data-driven governance to execute a more efficient and effective government. Simple solutions like creating an Office of Contract and Project Management to ensure that major capital projects are completed on time and on budget, reducing cost variances that have contributed to Baltimore's overspending will help identify large and sustainable amounts waste that could be directed towards increased local aide to Baltimore City Public Schools.

- **Currently, 0.2% of the City's budget is dedicated to workforce development. What is your position on increased funding for workforce training and adult education programs to reduce unemployment and adequately prepare City residents for jobs in high-demand industries?**

Workforce training and augmentation of adult educational programing creates huge opportunities for public private partnerships. We must attract new business to Baltimore, while providing competitive advantages to our residents to fill the jobs that come with new business. Beyond attracting regional and national employers, we must invest in the small businesses and homegrown entrepreneurs that bring vitality to our local markets and have rooted commitments to our collective success. In this way, we develop a diverse economy with the pool of talent it needs to thrive. The barometer of success should not be solely tied to a four year college degree, there are amazing associate degrees, certificate programs, and vocational apprenticeships that we must expose to our citizenry. We must create pipelines to employment by training residents for growing job sectors, facilitating apprenticeship programs with area employers, and providing employer incentives for hiring Baltimore residents.

This means:

- *Developing apprenticeship programs that connect Baltimore residents with area businesses.*
- *Increasing the competitive advantage of Baltimore apprentices by providing a subsidy to their employers.*
- *Creating a Baltimore Neighborhood Corps that employs Baltimore residents between (18) and (24) to clean and green Baltimore's neighborhoods.*
- *Training City residents for in-demand jobs in healthcare, logistics, and IT at Baltimore City Community College.*

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5. Utilize policy, funding, and intergovernmental coordination strategies to enhance Baltimore City's transportation and mobility infrastructure and operations.

- **What is your position on transportation policy and funding in the City? What, if any, policy priorities do you have regarding transportation and mobility?**

- *Developing an innovative transportation plan, the City's first new transportation plan in 16 years, to begin moving Baltimore toward becoming a multimodal City.*
- *Updating the City's Traffic Management Center and Intelligent Transportation Systems to improve the flow of traffic.*
- *Implementing Transportation Demand Management strategies for tailored approaches to congested streets.*
- *Finding sustainable, fiscally responsible funding streams to expand Charm City Circulator.*

- **Do you support enhanced investment in transportation infrastructure, including that for pedestrians, bicycles, and scooters?**

Yes.

- **Recently, the City Council created a Transportation Committee of the City Council. Do you support the continuation of this Committee?**

Yes.