



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

GBC's 2020 Baltimore City Election Coverage Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE: FREDERICK WARE-NEWSOME (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 are three actions that you would take in your first year to improve public safety?

Three actions I would take in the first year to improve public safety;

1) Reduce crime by adding 200 additional police officers on the force to help deter crime.

2) Bridge the economic gap between the citizens that have and the citizens that have not, by providing resource for residence to start-up their small businesses and provide training facilities for their business to grow economically.

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3) Evaluate our children's learning environment. Our children should be learning at the pass and level as other children in Maryland. Unfortunately, that is not happening and we will make sure everyone is being educated in Baltimore.

- As Mayor, what steps would you take to improve coordination across federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies and with the Judiciary?

The steps I would take is for the Mayor's office, Police Commission and FOP to work together in unison to make sure everyone is handling Baltimore's Crime issues. As well as, providing additional technology for our officers to make sure they have up to date police cars and computers in each car.

- What are your plans to address "squeegee kids" and panhandlers in City intersections?

I would make or enforce laws to where there is no squeegee kids or panhandlers on Baltimore city streets and roads. This creates a very dangerous situation for the individuals in the streets as well as our car owners. If a squeegee kid or panhandler gets hit by a car, the car owner is now liable for an act they had nothing to do with. That would not be fair to the vehicle owner.

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

- What strategies or programs would you put into place to encourage businesses and residents to move to Baltimore City?

After lowering the crime statistics in Baltimore, then that would give us a good platform to draw more business to Baltimore. Currently people do not want to visit Baltimore due to the high murder rate and the city being out of control with crime. After this is lowered and the citizens are encourage to go out and shop and support the current business owners in the city, then that will place us in a position to attract new businesses to Baltimore.

- What strategies or programs would you put into place to encourage existing businesses and residents to stay and expand in Baltimore City?

I would establish the Mayor's office to establish 200 to 300 small business a year for the residence of Baltimore and help those businesses to become successful and start to fulfill some of their daily needs. This attraction will encourage other business owners to start doing business once again with Baltimore, because the city will be prosperous again and we will begin to thrive.

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

The property tax structure will be reevaluated. Currently landlords are renting property for prices that are not worth the value of the units that are being rented. While property taxes that should be going to the schools appears to not be making it to those areas. Property taxes should be allocated appropriately to the areas it was designated for, but we do not see that happening. So we will reevaluate the structure to make sure everyone is getting a fair assessment.

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

Program #1 it to provide more small to medium business to help employ more Baltimoreans which would lead to citizens paying taxes due to more will be employed.

#2 fixing up the abandon homes in Baltimore so taxes can be collected and paid on this property.

#3 Make sure casinos are paying their fair revenue to Baltimore City due to the amount of revenue that is being taken in from their facility.

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 into a new decade and chapter?

I've been leading and advising organizations for many years. Me being Baltimore's Mayor would provide that good strong leadership to make sure everyone is carrying out their jobs and task that they have been hired for. Baltimore has an accountability problem. Too many people work for the city, but do not give an accounting to the city. This disparity I will closed. Under my administration everyone in City and State Government will be accountable to me and answer to me. This is the normal job of each citizen in the city, so I am not demanding anything new. This is what they should have been doing all the long. I'm just going to make them enforce it. I need them to be more efficient in dealing with other citizens for example our homeless citizens. We have a Homeless Department, but we have homeless people sleeping right outside of City Hall. That means there is no accountability. This will not exist under the Mayor Newsome Administration.

- What are three actions that you would take to improve transparency and efficiency in City government?

First thing I would to it to perform audits of every department in City government and then let everyone know my findings during the audit and have everyone give an account of the audit whether good or bad. Second I would make sure my heads of the different departments understand and know, it will not be business as usual. Everyone will give an account to the Mayor. Anyone that cannot meet the standards and requirements of their position, we will have to replace. Finally, I would have every head report to me on a monthly basis to make sure everyone is staying on task and assisting the community as needed.

- 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 think the Board of Estimates procedures have to be review. I've heard of several individuals who should have received contracts, but they were turned down. Nevertheless, in some cases some of the

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same individuals are receiving contracts over and over again. That will be re-evaluated to make sure contracts are being distrusted properly.

- Do you think that the Baltimore City Charter should require a Chief Administrative Officer? Please explain your answer.

Due to the constant changing of the city and technology and advancement, I would not rule out not having a Chief Administration Officer to help make sure the city is staying up to date with the times and technology so we can stay competitive with other cities around the country.

- How would you structure your Administration (ie, CAO, Deputy Mayors, Chief of Staff, etc.) to provide the most efficient delivery of City services?

I would make sure my City Leaders are well equipped for what every position they are assigned to. My leaders in my administration would have to be workers and have employees who could carry out tasks given to them. I would meet with my team on a weekly basis and I would empower my Deputy Mayors to function at the level I would function at. Everyone will be accountable.

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 spends less than 15% of its budget on education compared to a statewide average of 36%. What is your plan to meet the increased obligation of Baltimore City? Please be specific in identifying areas or agencies that will see reduced appropriations as well as revenues that may be increased.

Areas that I would look closely at reducing is the budget for the police department. The police department is clocking a lot of overtime. This allocation of funds would have to be re-evaluated to make sure that money is being spent wisely and appropriately. Next, I would review the revenue that should be coming in from casinos and lottery to make sure Baltimore city is receiving it's fair share. After evaluating these entities and if adding funding is needed we would streamline other areas of city government where there may be possible waste that need to be accounted for. The Kirwan report is a 10 year projection. That means all the money is not needed at onetime. So that does afford the City of Baltimore the opportunity to attract new businesses and to establish several hundred new businesses of our own.

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

My outline is to go into the different communities and recruit citizens to take part in the various training programs to help enhance their marketability skills to become more employable. We are going to set up different training regions in various communities to make transportation to and from easier for the citizens.

- What role should the City play in attracting and retaining top talent to fill in-demand jobs in high-growth industry sectors?

The city should start training and developing our own citizens to play major roles in filling some of these upcoming vacancies. Baltimore has some of the most educated and outstanding talent in the country, but a lot of them lack opportunity. It's the job of the Mayor to fill all these voids. As Mayor that is my goal and objective to make sure the citizens here are being used to their fullest potential.

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

- What are three things you would do to improve transportation and mobility in the City?

First I want to increase the bike lane platform. This will alleviate the congestion of traffic in Baltimore City. It would be more fuel efficient and it would cut down on the pollution of car emissions in Baltimore. Next I would want public transportation to be more eco friendly. For example the buses in Baltimore City to all run off of hydro-electric power. This will reduce carbon emissions in the city and promote light rail or develop faster train system to travel back and forth to Washington DC and Baltimore which would save less commuting time.

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

Yes I do support this outline as I explained previously.

- What is your position on the creation of a regional transit authority to oversee the transit network?

I have no issue with that as long as everyone is being accountable and transparent.