



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

GBC's 2020 Baltimore City Election Coverage Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE: DAVID ANTHONY WIGGINS (R)

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?

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

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

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

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

Advocating for inclusive policies and programs that strengthen economic competitiveness and job creation.

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?

Support policies that ensure that the cost of doing business in Maryland is competitive with other states, including regulatory policies that are streamlined, stable, and predictable.

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

Oppose the passage of destabilizing business taxation proposals that would create uncertainty, negatively affect the corporate tax structure, or diminish the economic vitality of our City.

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

We'd be open to entertaining what the citizens and our partners in business discern is the best course for all concerned, we could always hold public discussions on the matter.

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

Gentrification of pockets of poverty, more gentrification, and more gentrification.

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 understand the governance of nature, nation, and state, and one need not seek to gain fortune, in taking stewardship of our municipal corporation.

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

We would seek an audit by the State Comptroller, engage the OIG to combat Fraud Waste and Abuse, listen to the counsel of others.

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- 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?

The BOE should mirror the States BOE, with the Mayor, City Council President (or Council designee) and Comptroller, and should function in accord with the City Charter and Maryland Constitution.

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

That depends upon the powers and duties conferred thereto.

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

If we can't figure it out, we'll ask Donald Fry, et al

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.

I would rescind all leases in the amount of \$1.00 for 99 years for property of Baltimore City, and lease it at market rates to generate revenue, without raising taxes on business and residential property.

- 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?

Support evidence-based policies and programs to promote successful re-entry from incarceration and remove barriers to employment, including restrictions on access to education and training grants and scholarships, professional and occupational licenses, and housing.

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

strengths build on Baltimore's strengths in life sciences and information technology to promote job creation and entrepreneurship around the state's substantial research and technology.

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?

Support policies, funding, and incentives to enhance and promote inclusive transit-oriented development.

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

Yes

- What steps would you take to improve regional coordination on transportation policy and funding?
- What is your position on the creation of a regional transit authority to oversee the transit network?

I support a formal study of MTA's current governance and funding structures to identify opportunities for reform and to examine the feasibility of implementing a regional authority model