



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

2020 VOTERS' GUIDE

Introduction

On November 3, 2020, during the General Election, Baltimore County voters will vote for: the President and Vice President of the United States, Congressional Representatives for their respective districts (Districts 1, 2, 3, or 7); Judges of the Circuit Court (Circuit 3), and the continuance of the Judge for the Court of Special Appeals (At-Large). Baltimore County Voters will also consider 12 ballot questions. Question 1 and Question 2 relate to statewide issues and appear on the ballots of all Maryland voters. Question A through Question J refer to County matters and only appear on ballots of Baltimore County voters. Each ballot question is presented as on the ballot, followed by the Baltimore County Democratic Party's recommendation on voting for each item. A description of the Baltimore County Democratic Party's 2020 ballot recommendation process is included.

Party Recommendations

President and Vice President of the United States (Vote for 1)
Vote For Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Democratic

Representative in Congress District 1 (Vote for 1)
Vote For Mia Mason Democratic (If on your ballot)

Representative in Congress District 2 (Vote for 1)
Vote For C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger Democratic (If on your ballot)

Representative in Congress District 3 (Vote for 1)
Vote For John Sarbanes Democratic (If on your ballot)

Representative in Congress District 7 (Vote for 1)
Vote For Kweisi Mfume Democratic (If on your ballot)

Judge of the Circuit Court Circuit 3 (Vote for up to 2)
Vote FOR Vicki Ballou-Watts
Vote FOR Andrew Martin Battista



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large E. Gregory Wells (Vote Yes or No For Continuance in Office)

Vote YES For Continuance in Office

State Questions

Question 1 Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 645 of the 2020 Legislative Session) State Budget Process)

The proposed amendment authorizes the General Assembly, in enacting a balanced budget bill for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to increase, diminish, or add items, provided that the General Assembly may not exceed the total proposed budget as submitted by the Governor. (Amending Article II, Section 17, and Article III, Sections 14 and 52 of the Maryland Constitution.)

Vote FOR the Constitutional Amendment

Outcome

A vote **FOR** the constitutional amendment means the legislature will be able to adjust spending in the Governor's budget by reducing some items and increasing others as long as the total amount of spending does not exceed the amount of spending proposed by the Governor.

A vote against the constitutional amendment means current law would remain in place and the legislature will only be able to reduce the expenditures within the budget proposed by the Governor

Background

The 2020 session of the General Assembly passed legislation (SB 1028) proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the authority of the General Assembly in the budget process. A bill that amends the Maryland Constitution requires a three/fifth vote in each chamber (Maryland Senate and House of Delegates) and approval by a majority of voters at the next general election.

Current Practice

The Maryland Constitution prohibits the General Assembly from increasing any budget item or adding any new items to the Governor's proposed budget for any of the government agencies except the Judicial branch and the operations of the General Assembly itself, nor can it move funds from one agency to another. The General Assembly can only recommend cuts to state agency budgets unless it identifies and enacts a new revenue source to fund additional items. Once a budget passes the Senate and House, it becomes law and cannot be changed or vetoed by the Governor.

Proposed Change

If passed, the General Assembly could move spending in the budget proposed by the Governor from one agency to another as long as the total amount of the budget does not exceed the total amount in Governor's proposed budget. The General Assembly could also add spending to a



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

new item, as long as other item(s) of the budget are reduced to pay for the new expenditure. This change would begin with the 2024 Budget bill which is presented to the General Assembly in 2023. At that time, the Governor would be given the authority to veto items added or items increased by the General Assembly.

Arguments For

- The Maryland Legislature has less power in the budget process than any other legislature in the United States.
- Members of the public might have more ability to influence funding for programs of importance to them because they have more opportunities to interact with legislators during the General Assembly Session personally and during committee hearings, than they do to influence the Governor or the state agencies when the budget details are negotiated and finalized for presentation.
- For decades, Republican and Democratic legislators have proposed this change while Governors from both major parties have been in power. The provisions of this bill will not take effect until the election of a new Governor and members of the General Assembly are elected.
- This Constitutional Amendment would not change the current requirement that the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget.

Question 2 Commercial Gaming Expansion Referendum (Ch. 492 of the 2020 Legislative Session) Expansion of Commercial Gaming - Sports and Event Wagering

Do you approve the expansion of commercial gaming in the State of Maryland to authorize sports and events betting for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education?

Vote FOR the Referred Law

Outcome

A vote **FOR** the referred law means the General Assembly will be able to pass legislation to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in Maryland with a portion of the revenue going to support public education. If voters statewide approve this referendum, Chapter 492 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2020 will authorize the General Assembly to pass a law allowing the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue licenses to offer betting in the State on sports and other competitive events. Chapter 492 also provides that State revenues generated by sports and event betting must be used primarily for funding public education.

Sports and event betting is a gambling activity in which an individual places a bet on the results of a sporting event or a particular play or action during a sporting event. Sports and event betting can also extend to non-athletic events, such as reality television competitions or entertainment awards shows. The referred law provides additional tax revenue to fund education at a time when it is urgently needed. D.C. and all neighboring states have already



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

legalized sports betting. Unless sports betting is approved in Maryland, revenue from Maryland bettors will flow to offshore sportsbooks or to neighboring jurisdictions.

Background

In 2007, the Maryland Constitution was amended to say that the General Assembly may only authorize additional forms or expansion of commercial gambling if approved through a referendum by a majority of the voters in a general election. In 2020 the General Assembly passed SB 04 that would authorize it to pass laws to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in the State if approved by voters in the next General Election. The bill also stated that the primary purpose of this expansion of gambling would be to raise revenue for education.

Current Practice

In 2008 Maryland voters first approved gambling via video lottery terminals (slot machines.) In 2012, voters approved expanding the allowable number of video lottery terminals and authorized table games in casinos. Wagering on a contest, event, game, or match between individuals or teams sponsored by a professional league or association or hosted by a college or university is currently illegal in Maryland.

Proposed Change

If the referendum is approved, the General Assembly would then need to pass legislation that authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue licenses for sports and event wagering in the State. The legislation must include the criteria for eligible applications for a licensee and specify the permissible forms, means of conducting, and locations where sports wagering would take place. The bill that sent this question to the voters also requires a study by the General Assembly to evaluate whether there is reason to assist minorities and women in the sports and event wagering industry and market. This study is to be completed by October 1, 2020 so any recommendations that result can be considered when the General Assembly establishes criteria for licenses (assuming the referendum passes).

Arguments For

- Allowing sports betting in Maryland would enable the state to compete with the fourteen states that are already raising revenue this way.
- Illegal sports betting already takes place. Maryland should provide a legal way to place such bets to tap into that market and thereby reduce criminal activity.
- Depending on how it is implemented, Maryland could raise as much as \$20 million a year that could be invested in education which could yield long term benefits for Maryland residents.



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

County Questions

Question A.

County Charter Citizens' Election Fund System

Section 1013 is added to the Baltimore County Charter to: establish a Citizens' Election Fund System for candidates for County Council and County Executive beginning with the General Election to be held in 2026, provide that candidates may choose whether to participate in the system, establish a Citizens' Election Fund Commission, require the Commission to determine the funding of the system, provide for the funding of the system, require the creation of a subfund to receive voluntary contributions by citizens, provide for the order of disbursements from the system, and authorize the County Executive to not fund the system if the County Executive determines that the County's fiscal condition makes it imprudent to do so. (Bill 3-19)

Vote FOR the Proposed Charter Amendment

Question B County Ordinance Public Works Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$54,990,000 for public works purposes, for the class of projects which includes, among other things, streets and highways, bridges and storm drainage systems, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 37-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question C

County Ordinance Refuse Disposal Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$15,000,000 for refuse disposal projects, including but not limited to the construction, reconstruction, improvement, acquisition, repair, and modernization of county refuse disposal facilities, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 38-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question D

County Ordinance Operational Buildings Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$46,000,000 for public operational buildings including, but not limited to, general, health, police, fire, recreation, libraries, senior center and detention buildings or facilities and necessary or desirable equipment, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 39-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question E

County Ordinance Parks, Preservation and Greenways Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$35,000,000 for parks, preservation and greenways projects, including but not limited to acquisition of



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

playgrounds, parks and recreational facilities and the construction, improvement, repair and maintenance of playgrounds, parks and community centers, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 40-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question F

County Ordinance Community College Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$17,500,000 for community college projects, including but not limited to the construction, improvement, maintenance, and modernization of buildings and other improvements for the community colleges, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 41-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question G

County Ordinance School Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$200,000,000 for public school projects, including but not limited to acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, repair, maintenance, conversion, and modernization of public school buildings and sites, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 42-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question H

County Ordinance Agricultural and Rural Land Preservation Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$4,000,000 for agricultural and rural land preservation projects, including but not limited to the purchase of land, development rights and conservation easements, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 43-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question I

County Ordinance Community Improvement Project Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$2,500,000 for community improvement projects, including but not limited to construction, renovation, extension, alteration, repair or modernization of street curbs, gutters, water, sewer and other utilities, and sidewalk and pedestrian system improvements to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 44-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Question J

County Ordinance Waterway Improvement Program Borrowing

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and empower Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow \$20,000,000 for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extension, repair and modernization of waterway improvement and stormwater-related projects, including but not limited to shoreline



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

stabilization, shore erosion control, wetland restoration and streambank and riverbank restoration, to be undertaken pursuant to Sections 705(a) and 718 of the Baltimore County Charter. (Bill 45-20)

Vote FOR the Bond Issue

Summary

In summary, we encourage voters to elect Democrats up and down the ballot, reelect judges whose records demonstrate fair and equal justice, and vote “Yes” for all ballot questions to:

- Provide flexibility with state budget allocations (Question 1)
- Increase revenue dedicated to public education (Question 2)
- Create fair elections relating to campaign finance (Question A)
- Invest in priorities like education, expanded recreation and preservation, and sustainability (Question B through Question J)

2020 Ballot Question Recommendation Process

The Baltimore County Democratic Party completed the following process for determining the Party’s recommendations to voters on the 2020 ballot questions:

1. The Baltimore County Democratic State Central Committee (BCDSCC) Executive Committee gathered resources from the League of Women Voters and Board of Elections
2. The BCDSCC solicited the opinions of Democratic elected officials of Baltimore County and considered the guidance of the State Party and Leaders such as the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the State Senate President, and the Baltimore County Executive.
3. The BCDSCC Executive Committee discussed and approved the guide on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 and emailed the final guide to the full Committee on October 8, 2020.
4. The BCDSCC published the guide via the www.baltimorecountydems.com website on Saturday, October 10, 2020.



BALTIMORE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Executive Committee Members

The Baltimore County Democratic Party acknowledges the following Executive Committee members who helped developed the 2020 Ballot recommendations:

Dr. Crystal Francis, Chair
Jason S. Garber, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Brown, Second Vice Chair
Linda Dorsey-Walker, Secretary
Katie Dott, Treasurer

References

State Board of Elections (2020). General Ballot: Baltimore County. Retrieved online October 5, 2020 from https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/general_ballots/baltimorecounty.pdf

League of Women Voters of Baltimore County (2020). Voter's Guide: 2020 General Election. Retrieved online October 5, 2020 from https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmaryland/pages/3334/attachments/original/1601565973/Baltimore_County.pdf?1601565973