

Occupation: Fulltime City Council Representative, 14th District

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BACKGROUND: What in your background and experience qualifies you to be a City Council Member?

I am a high school and college teacher by profession. Parent and grandmother of 7 past/current Baltimore City Public Schools students. Have served 23 years in City Council, 8 as President and 15 as district representative. Serve as Chair of Education. Initiatives include Living Wage, Residential Permit Parking, Bike Safety, Traffic Calming, Court Watch, and Landmark Preservation.

HOUSING: How do you suggest solving the problem posed by the numerous abandoned houses in Baltimore?

Set population goals. Build new homes and recycle or demolish vacants to achieve right-sized and right-priced inventory citywide, replacing surplus inventory with community-managed green spaces to enhance livability and value. For affordable homeownership, engage residents with a low-interest loan pool to promote \$1-house rehab. Force investor release of vacants through tax penalties.

CRIME: What initiatives would you propose and promote to reduce homicides and juvenile delinquency in Baltimore?

For both, prioritize employment, recreation and academic opportunities to divert our youth from those default peer associations which often lead from aimlessness to criminality. Ensure consistent public/private funding, including for year-round youth employment and major loan and grant assistance for college-bound youth. Put police “feet on the street” to nurture mutual trust and respect.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS: What means would you use to secure funding to address the construction and renovation needs of the Baltimore City Public Schools?

The \$2.8B cost to meet deferred needs for rehab and new construction far exceeds the annual capital allocation for schools. “Catch-up” funding requires a fair share of the estimated \$15M annual slots revenue and additional dedicated City revenue. Student achievement and City retention of young families require this major investment in successfully operating and well-equipped schools.

EMPLOYMENT: How do you propose to bring more jobs to City residents?

A trained, educated and job-ready workforce is essential for generating and attracting jobs. Achieving that workforce requires relevant public education, job experience for students, and major tuition support for students pursuing post-secondary training and education. We also need strategies to attract a greater share of local college and university graduates to stay and pursue careers here.

REVENUE: What changes would you make to the tax structure to meet the City’s financial needs?

Enact “penalty” tax rate for abandoned properties. Adopt transparent criteria for local development tax relief. Negotiate “service charges” for income-generating non-taxables. Legislate annual cuts for all taxable properties, triggered by indicators of recession recovery. Retain 4% Homestead cap for owner-occupants. Seek Homestead “portability” to promote homeowner-to-homeowner sales.