



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CITY COUNCIL, 2nd DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

BRANDON SCOTT, DEMOCRAT

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1. Please articulate your overall vision for how young people will be supported from cradle to career in Baltimore City? What will be the priority strategies within your first four years in implementing this vision?

We demonstrate we care for our children beginning before day one through education and support programs to assist pregnant woman - which we've done through some initiatives such as B'more for Healthy Babies in partnership with other organizations. My priorities would also involve moving toward having access for all of our children to attend pre-kindergarten, creating more healthy living environments for our children and ensuring they are not living in lead poisoned houses, support further developing our trade programs in city schools, and supporting minimum wage increase.

2. The Mayor and City Council do not currently have oversight authority over Baltimore City Public Schools. Would you advocate changing the current city/state partnership? What changes would you recommend to the overall administration/approach of public education in Baltimore City?

We need to revisit the formula that currently exists to calculate school funding. This formula is outdated (as we've clearly seen this year with the cuts related to property values) and needs to be a priority in legislative session. I also believe that school board members should be partially elected and/or confirmed by the City Council to add a level of accountability.

3. Eighty percent of a young person's life is spent outside of school, yet just 15% of Baltimore's school aged young people have access to afterschool programs. City leaders from around the country have begun to identify the importance of afterschool and summer programs as a critical support and have invested in citywide systems. Participation in out-of-school time opportunities boosts academics, attendances, school promotion and completion and it helps connects young people to caring adults. If elected, what would your approach be to addressing opportunities for youth beyond the school day and school year?

I've done work in my first term to help support students in after school hours. I've participated in mentoring with different partners, I've expanded recreation opportunities for youth in my district, and I've helped support recreation centers and programs to become high functioning - specifically Furley recreation center. I will continue to advocate for our youth and the funding that programs for our youth need to be successful.

4. In the 70's and 80's Baltimore operated around 130 recreation centers. That decreased by nearly half by the early 90's. Currently, Recreation & Parks operates just 40 recreation centers. There are ongoing questions about the available resources of the Department based on the lack of audits. Some of the recreation centers require major upgrades in both physical plant and programming. While a few new, modern recreation centers and being built, it is clear that many neighborhoods lack quality recreational opportunities. How would you change the trajectory of Recreation and Parks? How will you address the challenges of programming and physical plants?



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As a product of Baltimore Recreation and Parks I know firsthand what they can mean in lives of young people. During my term I have been proud to expand recreation in my district by reopening the Furley recreation center through YSP youth sports program and bringing back late night basketball to recreation and parks. However much like we did with the effort that brought a billion dollars for school renovations, recreation and parks needs a complete capital plan. The plan exists but some of my colleagues are refusing to vote on a bill that what would sell city garages to generate funding for that plan. Cities like Kansas City and others have moved to a large center model in addition to having a dedicated funding source for their recreation department. Baltimore needs to do the same.

5. Young people want jobs and they are natural entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, youth unemployment is at an all time high and young people are denied the experiences and skills they need to be prepared to enter the workforce. If elected, what will be your approach to youth employment and entrepreneurship? How will you partner with Higher Education and Industry?

I would like to expand our YouthWorks program to be year round so that our youth can have more opportunity for employment throughout the year and also be able to depend relationships in the workplace and develop mentors. I think we also need to expand opportunities trades programs in schools offer so that more of our students have the option to be both college and/or career ready.

6. The resilient young people of Baltimore City experience trauma every day. They are both witness to and victims of violence. They have very real reasons to feel stressed and afraid. A growing body of research recognizes the importance of understanding and implementing trauma informed care within schools, community services, social services, and law enforcement. What approaches will you take, if elected, to implement trauma-informed-care and/or restorative practices in the public sectors?

Expanding community schools effectively can also help ensure that students are receiving wraparound services that are needed as well as providing services to communities. We need to be intentional with our expansion of the community schools strategy to ensure that we are providing places for our children to learn in high-performing environments that also support the true needs of the community.

7. In 2014, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, with the support of City Council, established one of the strictest youth curfew laws in the nation and advocated for year round curfew centers. Proponents of the curfew centers thought they were a good strategy to keep kids safe and to connect young people and their families to services. Opponents feared the curfew enforcement would further strain police community relations and disproportionately target young people of color. Questions remain about the actual utilization of the curfew centers and whether or not the "Youth Connection Centers" serve their intended purpose. If you are elected, what would your position on Curfew and Curfew Centers be? How would you build more positive interactions between youth and law enforcement?

As lead sponsor for removing criminal penalties from curfew to create one that was not meant to penalize families I still believe it was the right thing to do. Although there were some great successes at the Collington Square connection center, the failed leadership of Commissioner Batts prevented us from having the impact desired. My hope is that we will be able to rectify under new city leadership.

8. The parents and families of young people are often left out of the equation when we are seeking solutions. Family and community engagement requires long term, sustained efforts to build trust and offer authentic opportunities for families to have a voice and feel supported. The Community School



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strategy has been shown to increase family and community engagement and improve school climate and culture. The city funded community school strategy is currently operating in 50 schools out of 180. Do you think every school should be a community school? How would you expand the strategy?

Like I said above, I think it is important that we are really intentional with growing our community school model so that we ensure we are creating both truly effective learning environments and creating buildings that serve real needs in the community. I do believe we should continue to grow the number of community schools and implementing this model in all schools.

9. The Baltimore City Health Department provides chilling statistics in its 2014 Health Disparities Report. Factors of race, gender, economics, and zip code can all be determining factors for a short and painful life, and the trajectories begin even before birth. Given what we know now about what works, how will you approach making sure every child has the opportunity to grow up to become a health adult?

It's important that we continue to support programs that help provide school breakfasts, after school and summer meals. Additionally, it's imperative that we ensure no child is living in a lead-poisoned home - we should support lead-free inspections and certifications. As we continue to move forward with building community schools - we can invest in having community health centers within these schools as well.

10. The bright green footprints painted on Baltimore City sidewalks are supposed to denote safe walking passageways for children to get to school. However well intentioned, the reality is that in many neighborhoods there are no safe passageways, and green footprints cut through active drug and gang territory. With schools of choice, some older students are traveling more than 2 hours both morning and evening on unreliable and sometime unsafe public transportation. What will you do when elected to make sure young people can make it to school everyday safely?

We need to make sure we allocate money in the budget to support having crossing guards are identified intersections. Moreover, education is always important. We can educated our students on best practices for walking safely to school that accompany initiatives like these foot prints for safe pathways.