



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CITY COUNCIL 6th DISTRICT CANDIDATE:

RICHARD WHITE, GREEN PARTY

<http://www.vote4richardwhite.org/>

- 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?***

The first priority will be to focus on economic development pertaining to each individual who are the citizens of Baltimore. Create avenues that will lead to a better quality of life. Education is key in developing present and future productive citizens. Starting with healthy education pertaining to core pregnancy, to early childhood development and continued education from pre-school, elementary, junior, senior and collage. We need better schools and teachers who are invested in creating engaging technics to empower the students in this city. I would like to create schools that teach students according to their level of receiving. Some students learn by hearing, seeing, repeated task and some by hands on. Better education will be evident if we create a curriculum that meets these diverse style pertains to the individual.

- 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?***

When elected I will move to create policy that would hold Baltimore City responsible for our own schools and the education of our children the future leaders of this city. I would change who is appointed to the school board. There should be representation on the board from each district. In that district there should be a community education board that act as an liaison between the families, students, the community, teachers union, and the city school board. The board member should live in the district pertaining to the schools they serve and the city council member should be working with the community education board to identify what the needs pertaining to education it that district.

- 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?***

When elected the first I would address is the current city leadership lacking the duty to invest in our recreation centers. Our children are not worthy of monies that are to allocated to the enrichment of our youth, but instead they TIF to developers to build up parts of the city which build the economic of make of the city. I will push for policy that any developer who wants to build in this city and receive tif that they don't need and receive tax breaks must adopt a community to invest not only money, but



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

community development as well. They help to re-development a community neighborhoods and Rec. centers, or create community economic development centers.

- 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?***

My ability to change that is limited as one person, but if I can be a voice of the people the city leadership will have to listen. Proof positive is all the things they are doing in the aftermath of the uprisings last spring. In order for me to lead effectively the citizens of Baltimore city and district 6 have to say enough is enough and demand that we have up to date and quality centers to empower the future of this city our children.. We need re creative centers that are going to prepare our children the future pertaining to education, early childhood develop, life skills, tech skills and a balance of others forms of recreation like play ball, music and the arts.

- 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?***

When elected I will development policy that will start teaching our young students and citizens about entrepreneurship starting the 6th grade. So that by time they are in high school they will be on a clear path of career choice or be on a path to entrepreneurial development. In the city schools this should be part of every school not just tech of vocational schools. This should be the curriculum in all schools. This is also another learning and education option for students. To obtains skills needed to variable in the workforce. Many students will have the skills required for higher learning pertaining to collage, but can learn trades and skills and get the basic education and obtain transition certificates. This is very useful with those have learning and mental disabilities.

- 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?***

We must development community centers that deal with the everyday stress pertaining to living in this city. Our communities don't foster a sense of feeling safe where you live. This could also be part of the



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Rec. Centers. Our need for community counselors and have to have a safe haven for those who are stressed have access to quality counseling. This is a wrap around service which pertains to mental health that the current leadership does not want to address.

- 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?***

When elected I will propose that the curfew be voided, because it has not made our children any safer. Create things for our young to do and include them in what goes on in the city. We must get our youth involved in the community and prove to them that they are worth it and they are our invest. Many of our children feel as though they only have a couple of options the selected services, sports or the dope game. Curfew is like a prison to them and they already feel trap in a prison with no opportunity nor hope and causes them stress and act out fear or alack of being valued. We need police to really get involved in cultural training and live in the districts they serve. We must bring walk the block policing and the pal centers back to builds new bridges of community.

- 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 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?***

I think each community should be involved in their schools and not just sending there children everyday, but truly get engaged with the whole process of how the city goes about schooling our children. Once again we need community education boards. The city should be responsible for our schools , the community and the city council person.

- 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 healthy adult?***



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

In order for the child to have the opportunity to grow up into a healthy adult we must look at the generations which that child come from. If we have grandparents and parents who have lacked the developing skills pertaining to education, poverty, life skills, anger management, conflict resolutions, job readiness and economics on a personal level the child is off to a rough start. They grow up in households where there is a lack of positive resources, yet an abundance of domestic issues, drug and alcohol addictions. To ensure that the child has a great opportunity to be a complete and healthy adult we must meet the whole need. Whatever need there is in the household must be addressed because we can develop the child, but that child has to go back to the broken home. Social wrap around services pertaining to addictions, mental health, education, life skills and poverty must be the focus to give the child a chance at a better quality of life.

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 every day safely?

I will work to create policy that safe zones be put in place in every school district. Have police and community patrol to ensure safe streets of our children within these zones. Enforce no loitering zones to curb street corner drug activity. Create incentives for parents who bring their children to school and drop them off to foster a sense of family and community.