

League of Women Voters Guide

BACKGROUND: I have been involved with independent party politics since 1992, fighting with my colleagues against the powers that be (in Maryland mostly the Democrats) who insist that only one party one and set of ideas should live. Baltimore City needs someone with determination and grit to pull away from a largely failed 40 year monopoly—and the Republicans are not the answer.

HOUSING: Work with Annapolis to lower the property tax to reflect only the value of the land and never punish people for fixing their property. Make abandoned properties available to anyone willing to restore them, removing restrictions so that they can be multi-purpose: business, residential, or agricultural (creating community farms), making Baltimore a place where people want to come and stay.

CRIME: Young people see elected officials and school leaders cheating on tests and taking advantage of others for their own benefit and feel free to do the same. Churches and other institutions need to work to reverse this trend and talk about loving your neighbor and respecting others. Until we accomplish that, and remove leaders who cheat and lie, we're not going to see much of a change in crime.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS: This is the 21st century. We don't need more school buildings. We should recognize that education can be transmitted through the internet, the media, community associations, etc. We need to be investing more in libraries rather than school buildings - reversing a trend that has been going on for many years now.

EMPLOYMENT: Reduce property taxes, piggy back taxes and sales taxes. No more snack taxes and bottle taxes that drive businesses and jobs into the County. Eliminate zoning laws so that people can start conducting business out of their own homes. Encourage Baltimoreans to be independent, not dependent on politicians that promise everything and decades later haven't delivered because it was all bull.

REVENUE: Every single so-called leader - Mayor, Deputy Mayors, Police and Fire Chiefs and City Council members – cut your pay in half. Revise your pensions and bite the bullet along with the rest of us. The city should not collect more than land value tax. Too many so-called experts are making six figure salaries driving Baltimore into the ground. Send them home. Yes, THIS IS A TAX SOLUTION!