

# Comparison of Mayoral Candidates

In order by performance on a recent poll by Gonzales Research.

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

*This is a Baltimore Rising table. Please visit [BaltimoreRising.org](http://BaltimoreRising.org) for the full article.*

## David Warnock

Percentage Support in the January 20, 2016 Gonzales Poll... 5%

Current Occupation... Founder and owner of Camden Partners, a venture capital firm

### Relevant Pros...

- Board Chairman of the Center For Urban Families.
- Co-Founder of the Greenstreet Academy.
- Sophisticated understanding of business.
- Venture capital acquisitions and support of the CFUF have resulted in substantial jobs creation.

### Relevant Cons...

- First time candidate with no political or government management experience.
- Expertise limited to business acquisition and development.

## Elizabeth Embry

Percentage Support in the January 20, 2016 Gonzales Poll... 5%

Current Occupation... Director of Criminal Division for the Maryland State Attorney General

### Relevant Pros...

- Expert knowledge and proven effectiveness as a fighter of crime in Baltimore – as a prosecutor, as Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and as Deputy for Policy and Planning for the Baltimore City State's Attorney.

### Relevant Cons...

- First time candidate with minimal, highly focused government experience.
- Expertise limited to the control and reduction of crime. Obviously important, but insufficient given the scope of issues with which the Mayor must contend.

## Nick Mosby

Percentage Support in the January 20, 2016 Gonzales Poll... 7%

Current Occupation... Member of the Baltimore City Council representing District 7.

### Relevant Pros...

- Experience with the City Council since 2011.

### Relevant Cons...

- As a first-time office holder, experience is limited.
- No particular command of solutions to problems related to jobs creation, city government management and operations, crime or education.

## Carl Stokes

Percentage Support in the January 20, 2016 Gonzales Poll... 14%

Current Occupation... Member of the Baltimore City Council representing District 12

### Relevant Pros...

- Now serving his third term on the Baltimore City Council.
- Former Member of the Baltimore City School Commission.
- Realistic understanding of what's wrong with Baltimore as proven by his focus on the urgent need for jobs

### Relevant Cons...

- Sluggish fundraising may limit his ability to run an effective campaign.

## Catherine Pugh

Percentage Support in the January 20, 2016 Gonzales Poll... 18%

Current Occupation... State Senator representing legislative District 40

### Relevant Pros...

- Majority Leader of the Maryland Senate. Will help Baltimore City government work with the state in Annapolis.
- Former Member of the City Council representing District 4.
- Former State Delegate representing District 40.
- City Paper's 2010 Legislator of the Year. Responsible for over 150 new laws benefiting her state, district and the city of Baltimore.
- President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.
- Founder of the Baltimore Design School.
- Co-Founder of the Baltimore Marathon.
- Proven leadership and vision.

### Relevant Cons...

- Not currently as well-known as her principal opponent.

## Sheila Dixon

Percentage Support in the January 20, 2016 Gonzales Poll... 27%

Current Occupation... Consultant to the Maryland Minority Contractors Association

### Relevant Pros...

- Former Member of the Baltimore City Council representing District 4.
- Former President of the Baltimore City Council.
- Former Mayor of the city of Baltimore.
- Is the most well-known of all the major Democratic candidates.

### Relevant Cons...

- Lackluster performance as Mayor. Claims to be responsible for the decline in homicides in Baltimore which was, in fact, part of a national trend.
- Found guilty of misdemeanor embezzlement for violating her fiduciary responsibilities to the people of Baltimore.
- Resigned as Mayor as part of a plea deal that allowed her to retain her retirement benefits and avoid trial and conviction for perjury subject to 2 years probation during which she was prohibited from running for office and required to contribute \$45,000 to charity. Failure to make her charitable contributions as promised brought her back into court where she was ordered to make her payments or risk having the terms of her plea agreement nullified.
- Did nothing when she was Mayor to warrant her re-election.
- Has made no significant effort to reduce unemployment and poverty in the city, nor does her current platform indicate any serious interest in jobs creation.
- Has no credibility as a Mayor who can encourage employers from the region and around the county to move to the city.

Ms. Dixon appears to have had a somewhat optional relationship with honesty and integrity. Could she be a new person, fully deserving of a second chance? Of course, but that's no reason to re-elect her Mayor.

As the only candidate who has been the Mayor of Baltimore, it is reasonable to ask whether or not the city's families and businesses – especially its disadvantaged neighborhoods – are better off today than they were when Ms. Dixon first took office and as a result of anything she may have done. The answer is, "No." Ms. Dixon does not compare favorably to her more qualified opponents and does not warrant the confidence of voters and the privilege of re-election.