

Comparison of Baltimore's Major Candidates For Mayor

Source: Candidate Websites and Other Written Platform Statements
As of Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Candidates are listed in descending order of their ranking on the poll conducted by Gonzales Research in January. Only the 6 candidates covered by the Gonzales poll and the Sun's November poll are included. This table of platform highlights was prepared by BaltimoreRising.org. Please visit the candidates' websites to read their platform materials in their entirety.

	Jobs/The Economy	Education	Public Safety	Government	Other/Comment
<p>Sheila Dixon</p> <p>SheilaDixonForMayor.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Served on the City Council, as City Council President and then Mayor - Convicted of misdemeanor embezzlement, pled guilty to perjury and was forced to resign after 2 years in office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triple city expenditures for workforce readiness - Raise the minimum wage to \$15 - Promote local employee-owned businesses - Help high schools students find meaningful employment while they are still in school - Connect small businesses to "Local Anchor Institutions" - Remove barriers to small business development - Upgrade the Port of Baltimore's infrastructure to make it more competitive - Create "Innovation 	<p>No plan.</p> <p>Comment: Is there an education platform plank coming soon?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce gun violence - Improve focus of law enforcement on likely perpetrators "to prevent crimes before they happen" - Do a better job of making sure Police Officers know what they're doing - De-emphasize arrests as a means of reducing non-violent crime - Strengthen civilian oversight - Encourage officers to participate in their communities - Improve coordination and focus of all related city agencies - Rebuild public trust by redefining community policing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make annual reductions in property tax rates – as long as they are fiscally affordable - Reform developer tax breaks in light of over all city government fiscal requirements and for the benefit of the city's disadvantaged neighborhoods 	<p>Transportation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve east-west transit - Protect the Circulator <p>Comment: Good to see the release of Ms. Dixon's "Plan to Create Jobs and Raise Wages." The plan contains many good common sense and more academic initiatives, but is too complicated, has too many moving parts. It needs to focus on much simpler strategies in order to have a chance of succeeding quickly and on a scale the city's problems demand.</p>

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	<p>Districts" inside neighborhoods adjacent to technology sector companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use "intervention buying" to stop the spread of blight - Accelerate Park Heights development - "Make Baltimore the most pro-immigrant city in the nation" - Expand the definition of "economic development" to include quality of life investments 				
<p>Catherine Pugh</p> <p>PughForMayor.com</p> <p>- Served on the City Council, as State Senator and is now as the Senate Majority Leader</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Baltimore the premier business incubator city on the East Coast - Establish a micro-grant program - Streamline project development - Leverage national and international relationships to attract manufacturing and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take back control over the School Board ...Has already submitted the "Local Governance and Accountability Act of 2016" to accomplish this objective. - Conduct a system-wide audit - Increase the city's contribution to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the use of technology to more effectively target criminal activity - Increase Police Department diversity by race and gender - Increase foot patrols - Increase Officer community involvement - Strengthen the Civilian Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a commission to recommend a viable plan for reducing the property tax rate - Examine feasibility of returning TIF projects to the tax rolls - Open up the bidding process to eliminate the preferred bidders list - Perform regular 	<p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce healthcare disparities throughout the city - Reduce homelessness - Eliminate food deserts - Expand recreational and physical activities for youth and adults - Create a Healthy Baltimore

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	<p>other employers to the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand the use of TIFs to encourage development in the city's disadvantaged neighborhoods - Develop year-around internships programs for Baltimore's youth. 	<p>public education from 20% to 35% over the next 4 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significantly expand early childhood learning programs beginning at infancy - Increase the use of technology in the classrooms - Make school environments more healthy and safer - Expand programs for the arts and music - Add more "Community Schools" such as the Baltimore Design School that she founded 	<p>Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentivize Officers to live in the city - Increase penalties associated with illegal guns - Establish an Office of Returning Citizens to reduce repeat offenses - Improve drug treatment programs 	<p>audits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the city government's customer service to its constituents 	<p>Commission to study and help improve the health of all the city's families</p> <p>Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Separate the Dept. of Housing & Community Development from the Housing Authority to improve efficiency - Reduce vacant housing - Create special tax zones to encourage development in blighted communities - Start resolving most rental disputes out of court with a minimum number of evictions. <p>Transportation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the city's bus system to assure convenient access to jobs around the city - Make the Circulator sustainable <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Light up the city's neighborhoods to improve public safety

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					<p>- Upgrade the city's infrastructure, including higher speed Internet access</p> <p>Comment: Senator Pugh is a rock-solid choice for voters who are serious about better, more effective city government. She's smart and very experienced, has vision, always delivers on what she promises and is absolutely fearless when it comes protecting and promoting the interests of her constituents.</p>
<p>Carl Stokes</p> <p>CarlStokes2016.com</p> <p>- Currently serves on the Baltimore City Council</p>	<p>- Bring more jobs to Baltimore by making the city more business-friendly</p> <p>- Opposes the use of TIFs for harbor development instead of investing those millions in neighborhoods that have been neglected</p>	No plan.	No plan.	<p>- Evaluate and re-organize government agencies</p> <p>- Redirect city government priorities to deal, more urgently and effectively with Baltimore's economic and social problems</p>	<p>Comment: Description of his objectives is way too brief, lacking scope and detail – surprising so for someone of Mr. Stokes' experience. While we agree with what little he says, his platform, such as he's described it, is</p>

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					not, in and of itself, sufficient to qualify him to be Mayor.
<p>Nick Mosby</p> <p>MosbyForMayor.com</p> <p>- Currently serving his first term on the Baltimore City Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop subsidized apprenticeship programs - Remove barriers to employment through expungements, adult education and GED certifications - Encourage economic growth by relocating Enterprise Zones to "disinvested communities," upgrading the city's Internet service, and by creating a small business loan fund in Baltimore's BOLD (Building on Leveraged Development) Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Eliminate gaps in the education system" through universal Pre-K - Fix literacy deficiencies early, before the impede learning - Support other initiatives to make sure the city programs take care of all students, regardless of the specific situations - Create a Mayor's Office of Education Reform with control over City funding for education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effect "true community policing" with greatly heightened Police presence and participation with neighborhood residents - Mandate body and dashboard cameras - Encourage a stronger Civilian Review Board - Have Officers connect residents with city agencies to address quality of life complaints - Undertake a series of initiatives to focus on repeat offenders - Waive the property tax for Officers willing to live in "developing communities" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower the city's property taxes for all properties to make Baltimore more competitive - Separate property taxes and waste disposal costs - Create a City Procurement Office that centralizes oversight - Mandate regular auditing of city agencies 	<p>Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create BOLD (Building on Leveraged Development) zones that focus the city's development issues on the city's disadvantaged neighborhoods - Aggressively reduce the inventory of vacant properties with "stiff financial penalties for negligent owners" <p>Transportation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a new vision for city transportation, including an expanded Circulator and a City-run Bus Rapid Transit - Use "Transportation Demand Management" strategies to reduce traffic congestion - Eliminate parking minimums

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve access to jobs via shuttles to employment centers - Develop car share programs in developing neighborhoods <p>Comment: Mr. Mosby's 15 point plan is a surprisingly solid offering from a first-term member of the Council.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Embry</p> <p>EmbryForBaltimore.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First-time candidate - Ms. Embry is an attorney, currently Director of Criminal Division in the office of Maryland's Attorney General 	No plan.	No plan.	<p>By a variety of initiatives too numerous to list in this format...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will "end bloodshed on our streets" - "Rebuild trust between our communities and law enforcement" - "End the war on drugs" through treatment, rehabilitation and other initiatives - Reform the way the system handles juvenile crime - "Close the revolving door of 	No plan.	<p>Comment: Ms. Embry's materials are, unfortunately, laser-focused on the singular issue of public safety as if nothing else matters. While she is uniquely well-qualified among all the candidates to deliver exactly what she promises with respect to public safety, Baltimore is just not experiencing a one-dimensional crisis that can be managed and resolved by a candidate whose experience and</p>

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			crime" by various initiatives to significantly reduce recidivism		interests are so narrow in scope. Perhaps she can expand upon her proposals for the city?
<p>David Warnock</p> <p>DavidWarnockForBaltimore.com</p> <p>- First-time candidate</p> <p>-Mr. Warnock is the founder and President of his own venture capital company</p>	<p>- Offers no plan other than that he recognizes the importance of good-paying jobs</p> <p>- Would hire the unemployed ("an army of workers") to demolish vacant housing</p>	<p>- Make every school to be a "Community School" where children can get all the education and other support they need to succeed</p> <p>- Require individual, customized plans for success for every student as a cooperative effort between parents and teachers</p> <p>- Enhance focus on mentorships and other forms of community support</p> <p>- Conduct annual audits of school expenditures</p> <p>- Create a "partially elected" Board of School Commissioners</p>	<p>- Improve training for Police Officers</p> <p>- Require, body cameras</p> <p>- Mandate more foot patrols and other face-to-face contact between Police and the people they serve</p> <p>- Provide increased job training and other programs to help give the city's youths and adults alternatives to crime</p> <p>- Use expungement and other tools to remove barriers to employment for people who have been incarcerated</p> <p>- Make the BPD more transparent and accountable</p> <p>- Incentivize more Officers to live in the city and rehab</p>	<p>- Offers no plan except, in general, to make government nicer and more responsive</p>	<p>Housing:</p> <p>- Reduce vacant housing by holding the owners responsible for their negligence</p> <p>- Provide incentives that will encourage construction and maintenance of affordable housing</p> <p>- Demolish vacant housing, quickly and in large numbers – and hire the unemployed to do it.</p> <p>Comment: Given that Mr. Warnock makes a living buying and building companies, it is both surprising and disappointing that he does not offer an elaborate plan for jobs creation and for all-inclusive</p>

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			vacant houses that they will own		economic recovery and growth that eliminates unemployment and poverty in the city.