



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Tyrod Haynes

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

What is your position regarding the Councilmanic Courtesy norm?

Councilmanic Courtesy exists to ensure that local voices are heard in decisions that directly affect their neighborhoods. I respect the intent behind that norm—community input matters, and the Councilmember closest to an issue should play a meaningful role.

However, Councilmanic Courtesy should never be used as a shield for decisions that lack transparency, community engagement, or sound policy justification. I believe it must be balanced with the County Council's responsibility to act in the best interest of the entire county, uphold ethical standards, and ensure equity across all districts.

As a Councilmember, I would support Councilmanic Courtesy when it is grounded in clear community consensus, open public process, and responsible planning. I would oppose its use when it bypasses public input, undermines accountability, or allows decisions that negatively impact residents without proper scrutiny.

I respect local leadership—but I will always prioritize transparency, public participation, and the long-term well-being of our communities over political custom.

What concrete steps will you take to address the acute shortage of affordable housing in Baltimore County? Please include your position on the current Urban-Rural Dividing Line.

I support holding the Urban–Rural Demarcation Line. Baltimore County should focus housing growth inside the URDL, where infrastructure already exists, while protecting our rural lands, farms, and watersheds. Expanding the URDL is not a responsible solution to affordability.

To address the housing shortage, I will take clear, practical steps. First, I will ensure that any development receiving County financial assistance includes meaningful affordable housing, with enforceable, long-term affordability requirements. Public dollars must deliver public benefit.

Second, I will support zoning updates that allow more housing options inside the URDL, including accessory dwelling units and small multi-family homes in appropriate areas, especially near transit and job centers. This helps increase supply without disrupting stable neighborhoods.

Third, I will prioritize preserving existing affordable housing to prevent displacement, because protecting current residents is just as important as building new units.

Finally, I will work to speed up approvals for projects that meet community plans and affordability standards, reducing unnecessary delays that drive up costs.



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My approach is simple: protect rural Baltimore County, build and preserve affordable housing where it belongs, and make sure growth works for residents—not just developers.

What resources are under-utilized in our County that could be used to increase economic growth?

Baltimore County has strong assets that are not being fully leveraged. First, our workforce is under-utilized—particularly skilled trades workers, young adults, and residents reentering the workforce. We need stronger workforce pipelines that connect residents directly to growing industries and local employers.

Second, underdeveloped commercial corridors and vacant properties represent missed opportunities. Strategic reinvestment in these areas—especially near transit and established communities—can spur small business growth, create jobs, and expand the tax base without overburdening infrastructure.

Third, County-owned land and facilities are often underused. When deployed intentionally, these assets can support mixed-use development, small business incubators, workforce training centers, and community-serving enterprises.

Fourth, small and minority-owned businesses remain an untapped growth engine. Simplifying permitting, expanding access to capital, and strengthening procurement opportunities can unlock entrepreneurship and keep dollars circulating locally.

Finally, regional partnerships—with educational institutions, nonprofits, and neighboring jurisdictions—are not fully maximized. Coordinated planning can better align education, workforce training, and economic development.

Economic growth in Baltimore County does not require reinventing ourselves. It requires better use of the people, places, and public assets we already have—and making sure growth is inclusive and community-focused.

What is the greatest need in the district you are seeking to represent and what are your plans to address it?

The greatest need in District 3 is economic stability rooted in access—access to affordable housing, quality food options, safe neighborhoods, and real pathways to opportunity. Too many families are working hard but still struggling because basic needs are not reliably within reach.



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My plan starts with neighborhood investment, not neglect. I will work to attract a full-service grocery or fresh food market to underserved areas like the former Giant site in Owings Mills/New Town, using public-private partnerships and community-backed commitments to demonstrate demand.

Second, I will focus on housing stability by supporting affordable and attainable housing inside existing communities, while preserving current residents and preventing displacement. Stable housing is the foundation for everything else—education, health, and public safety.

Third, I will prioritize public safety and trust, supporting community policing, youth engagement, and coordinated responses to quality-of-life issues that affect residents daily.

Finally, I will be an accessible and accountable Councilmember—holding regular community meetings, communicating clearly about development and County decisions, and making sure residents' voices shape outcomes.

District 3 does not need symbolic leadership. It needs practical, present leadership that delivers results where people live. My focus is on stabilizing our neighborhoods and building opportunity from the ground up.