



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Paul V. Konka

Position: State Senate

District: 42

What are your unique strengths for this position? What committee(s) would you like to serve on and why?

"My background (military veteran and finance professor) means that I am the best candidate to turn District 42 from Red to Blue.

Budget and Taxation; Education, Energy, and the Environment (EEE); and Finance.

I have an MBA degree (Finance and Investments major) and am a finance professor, so both the Budget and Taxation and Finance committees could best benefit from my education and experience. I have taught grades K-12 in Baltimore County and am a finance professor with the University of Maryland Global Campus and the EEE would be a good fit. In my previous race for State Delegate in District 42A, I was endorsed by the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters and would like to advance their objectives, including land preservation in Baltimore and Carroll counties."

What legislation would you introduce/sponsor to address economic inequality in Maryland?

I would coordinate with the Governor's office and introduce legislation to close the racial wealth gap, increase affordable housing, raise the minimum wage, and implement progressive tax reforms. Recent examples include the ENOUGH Act, Housing Expansion and Affordability Act, Fair Wage Act, and the Just Communities Act.

What would you do to address the impacts of climate change in Maryland and how would you encourage growth without degrading our environment and natural resources?

"Combatting climate change requires a national and international commitment, but Maryland can do its part through land preservation, as well as by increasing its use of solar and wind power. Replacing dark-colored roofs with white roofs, replacing asphalt sidewalks with porous materials, and planting trees will help. I would work with the Maryland Farm Bureau (of which I am a member) to increase net farm income so that family farms could be maintained and not lost to development.

I would not encourage growth. We do not need a larger population. We need to take better care of the people that we now have."



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What legislation would you introduce and/or sponsor to ensure Marylanders' rights and wellbeing in the face of current federal policies? Please address protections for women, the LGBTQ+ community, and all populations under threat.

I am on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Maryland and have many connections with other organizations that support women, as well as the LGBTQ+ community. I would introduce and/or sponsor any legislation that such organizations would request.

How do you plan to address the funding shortfall that will soon reach Maryland due to Federal budget cuts to education, infrastructure, disaster response (FEMA) and others?

In order to win in a Red district, one cannot propose to increase taxes. But I can highlight my experience with the Federal Government when I was a Supervisory Accountant with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and was the manager responsible for the internal controls of the agency, including being responsible for the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and saving over one billion dollars in administrative costs through the procurement of the Medicare Administrative Contractors. Should I be elected, I would then consider increasing the progressive tax rate or imposing a wealth tax, but this would only be acceptable with my constituents after first ensuring that the Maryland government is operating effectively and efficiently.