



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Julian Jones

Position: County Executive

What urban planning model examples do you admire and would seek to adapt in Baltimore County? If your vision includes increasing the offer of “third places” (public gathering spaces), please include the actions you would take.

I strongly believe in the principles of Smart Growth championed in Maryland by Governor Parris Glendening. I believe we have to promote transit-oriented and mixed-use development models.

One of the best real-world examples is Arlington County’s Rosslyn–Ballston corridor. Arlington concentrated mixed-use development around Metro stations while preserving surrounding residential neighborhoods. Higher density was focused near transit, with density tapering down as you move toward existing communities, creating vibrant “urban villages” with housing, jobs, retail, and public gathering spaces.

We should expand that approach in Baltimore County by strengthening our Metro corridors, particularly in areas like Owings Mills and Towson where mixed-use development is already emerging. During my time on the County Council I helped support projects that combine housing, retail, and community amenities to create active neighborhood centers.

I also believe density should always come with community benefits. In exchange for higher-density development near transit and commercial corridors, we should require affordable housing, public space, and investments in transportation, sidewalks, and green space.

What concrete steps will you take to address the acute shortage of affordable housing in Baltimore County and what other measures would you take to encourage population retention and increase?

Baltimore County’s housing shortage is one of the biggest challenges we face, and it is directly tied to our population decline. If we want families to stay, young people to build their lives here, and our workforce to grow, we must make Baltimore County a place where working people can afford to live.

First, we need to increase the supply of housing where it makes the most sense. I support a smart growth approach that focuses mixed-income housing near transit, job centers, and aging commercial corridors. Redevelopment areas like Towson, Owings Mills, and other underutilized commercial sites are opportunities to create walkable communities with new housing, retail, and public spaces while protecting established neighborhoods.



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Second, we must strengthen tenant protections and housing stability. I support policies such as Good Cause non-renewal protections, stronger housing code enforcement, and measures to prevent predatory practices that drive displacement. Stable housing helps families stay rooted in our communities.

Third, we need to expand pathways to homeownership and workforce housing. I will support first-time homebuyer assistance, partnerships with nonprofit developers, and programs that help teachers, nurses, first responders, and young professionals afford to live in the communities they serve.

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

Baltimore County already has many of the ingredients businesses are looking for: a skilled workforce, proximity to major East Coast markets, strong infrastructure, and high quality of life. The challenge is that we have not always been proactive enough about turning those assets into economic growth.

One of the biggest changes I would make as County Executive is to shift our economic development strategy from what I call "fishing" to "hunting." Too often governments simply wait for businesses to come to them. Instead, our economic development team should be actively identifying industries that are a strong match for Baltimore County and going out to recruit them.

That means building a highly professional business recruitment operation within the Department of Economic and Workforce Development that is constantly engaging companies, site selectors, and industry leaders. We should be targeting sectors where we already have advantages, such as logistics, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, technology, and clean energy.

Baltimore County also has powerful physical assets that can support this strategy. Redevelopment opportunities in Towson, Owings Mills, and other commercial corridors can provide space for growing companies, while major employment hubs like TradePoint Atlantic show the scale of economic activity the county can support.

At the same time, economic growth should support our existing business community. That means making it easier for small businesses to start and expand, improving access to capital for minority-owned businesses, and ensuring that redevelopment projects include opportunities for local entrepreneurs.



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What law enforcement issues do you see as the biggest challenge in the County and how would you protect County residents from ICE raids?

As a former firefighter and public safety professional, I believe our police, firefighters, and EMS must have the resources, training, and support they need to protect our communities. At the same time, accountability and professionalism are essential to maintaining public trust.

One specific issue I have worked on directly is preventing Baltimore County from becoming part of a federal deportation system that undermines community safety. I recently led legislation to ban the construction or operation of immigrant detention centers in Baltimore County, ensuring our communities will not be used to expand mass detention infrastructure.

I have also taken concrete steps to ensure Baltimore County does not become part of a federal deportation system that undermines community safety. I recently passed legislation banning the construction or operation of immigrant detention centers in Baltimore County, ensuring our communities will not be used to expand mass detention infrastructure. As County Executive, I will build on that work through my Trump-Proof Baltimore County Plan. This plan establishes a countywide warrant-only policy so local agencies do not assist federal immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant, ends voluntary cooperation with ICE that erodes community trust, and prohibits using county resources to detain individuals for immigration enforcement or hold them beyond their lawful release. It also strengthens the Office of Immigrant Affairs to enforce language access and coordinate services across agencies, while creating an Immigrant Legal Defense Fund and rapid response support so families have access to legal help and reliable information during enforcement actions.

Public safety depends on trust. When residents know that calling 911, reporting a crime, or sending their children to school will not expose them to immigration enforcement, communities are stronger and law enforcement can do its job more effectively.



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Much is talked about protecting "mom and pop" businesses; in Baltimore County, however, big chains prevail. What is your vision and plan to address this?

Baltimore County's economy is strongest when local entrepreneurs can succeed alongside larger companies. Too often, however, the development process and local regulations unintentionally favor large chains that have the resources and legal teams to navigate complicated approvals. My vision is to create an environment where small, locally owned businesses can start, grow, and compete successfully. That begins with making government easier to navigate. As County Executive, I will streamline licensing and permitting processes, create clearer guidance for entrepreneurs, and establish a small business navigation office so local business owners have a single place to get help moving through county requirements.

We should also be intentional about incorporating opportunities for local businesses into redevelopment projects. When the county approves major mixed-use developments or commercial redevelopment, we should work with developers to ensure space and leasing opportunities are available for locally owned businesses, not just national chains. That can include encouraging smaller retail spaces that local entrepreneurs can afford, supporting pop-up and incubator spaces that allow businesses to grow, and prioritizing minority- and locally-owned businesses in economic development programs.

In addition, I will expand access to capital, technical assistance, and workforce partnerships so small businesses have the tools they need to succeed. Baltimore County already has strong entrepreneurs and small business owners. Our job in government should be to remove unnecessary barriers, actively support local businesses, and make sure our economic development policies help local businesses thrive rather than crowding them out.