



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Mark Brewster

Position: County Council

District: 3

What is your position regarding the Councilmanic Courtesy norm?

"For too long, councilmanic courtesy has been used to silence community voices and rubber-stamp development decisions that do not reflect data, equity, or public interest. When projects move forward simply because a single councilmember wants them, despite clear community opposition or harmful impacts, our residents lose trust in government.

While Councilmembers bring important district-specific knowledge, they do not just serve their districts in isolation. Decisions made in one part of Baltimore County affect housing affordability, traffic, schools, and the environment countywide. Courtesy must never outweigh the broader public good.

I believe local voices should be central, but councilmanic courtesy must never be an excuse to dismiss community concerns or approve projects that deepen inequity. The County Council's responsibility is to act in the best interest of all residents, grounded in data, open process, and meaningful public input."

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 Demarcation Line.

"Baltimore County's housing crisis is one of the most urgent challenges we face. As a renter, I feel firsthand how rising costs are pushing residents out of the communities they love, which weakens our neighborhoods and workforce.

Our housing crisis affects more than housing. As people leave the county, our tax base shrinks, making it harder to fund schools, public safety, and infrastructure. If we want people to stay and invest here, addressing housing must be our top priority. To address this crisis, I will work to:

- Expand housing options including mixed-income and mixed-use development, and missing-middle housing near transit and job centers.
- Protect current affordable housing by strengthening code enforcement, supporting rehabilitation of aging housing stock, and implementing strong anti-displacement and renter protections.



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- Pair housing policy with transportation investment, ensuring residents can access jobs, schools, healthcare, and services without relying on a car.
- Expand first-time homebuyer education and assistance, especially for public servants such as educators, first responders, and county employees.
- Advocate for publicly available dashboards that clearly show the housing climate in Baltimore County, including where housing needs are greatest, where housing stock exists, current affordability levels, and how public investments are being used to address gaps.

I strongly support maintaining the Urban–Rural Demarcation Line. Expanding development beyond the URDL would undermine environmental protections and ultimately fail to deliver true affordability. I do not believe we should sacrifice our environmental integrity and rural character in the name of sprawl. The solution to our housing crisis is smart, equitable growth and zoning where infrastructure already exists."

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

"Some of our greatest potential lies in our underutilized spaces. As it relates to pairing that potential to increased economic growth, a couple of those key resources and opportunities include:

- The Liberty Road Corridor, and the New Town Village Center near where I grew up. Both have needed some attention for a while. We can revitalize and improve these locations and our corridors to support and even attract small businesses, grocery stores, and family-sustaining jobs.
- Vacant lots and abandoned spaces, including county-owned land and facilities. These vacant spaces, and county-owned land and facilities, should be intentionally repurposed for mixed-use development, workforce training centers, small business incubators, and community spaces. For example, there is a former Tony Roma's building in my district that has remained vacant for over a decade. I would work to transform sites like this into assets that deliver both economic opportunity, and meaningful community benefit.



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While the buildings are a piece of the equation, we must also invest in our people and empower them to participate and engage in our local economy as well. It is imperative that we do not merely invest in buildings and businesses, but we are investing in our people, programs, and resources to allow our residents, and economy to thrive.”

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 opportunity, in all its forms. That means opportunity to access affordable housing, reliable transportation, quality education, safe communities, and clear pathways to economic mobility, regardless of income, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability. As Councilmember, I will take a whole-of-community approach by working to:

- Create a Northwest Baltimore County circulator system to connect residents to jobs, schools, healthcare, and commercial centers, with vehicles and stops designed to be fully accessible and ADA compliant.
- Establish a Center for Family Success in Western Baltimore County, similar to the one in Essex, providing access to workforce training, childcare resources, health services, disability supports, and family services.
- Stabilize housing by expanding affordable and attainable options while protecting existing residents from displacement, including housing that meets accessibility standards and serves seniors and people with disabilities.
- Advocate for a dedicated Northwest CTE center, ensuring students have equitable access to career and technical education and pathways to good-paying jobs in our district.
- Invest in public safety and community trust, including fully funding first responders, non-police crisis response, youth prevention programs, and community policing.
- Protect our immigrant and marginalized communities by opposing cooperation with ICE that undermines trust, threatens family stability, or discourages residents from accessing public services.
- Advance equity and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ residents, seniors, and people with disabilities by supporting inclusive policies, accessible public spaces, nondiscrimination



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protections, and County services that allow all residents to live openly, safely, and independently.

- Invest in our local economy and workforce, particularly for Minority-, women-, and young-owned businesses, which face disproportionate barriers to capital and contracting. I support expanding the Baltimore County Boost Fund creating another category of eligibility to include entrepreneurs ages 18–35, streamlining permitting, and expanding access to capital.
- Be a responsive and engaged councilmember, through newsletters, emails, hosting and attending regular community meetings, and creating a robust constituent services operation.

I was raised in this community, have spent my career serving this community, and am ready to fight for this community. My commitment to running a campaign, and serving as a Councilmember free of special interests is reinforced by the fact that I am proudly running as a publicly financed candidate with over 200 grassroots supporters and have earned the endorsement of one of Baltimore County's progressive champions in Delegate Dana Stein."