



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

What is your position regarding the Councilmanic Courtesy norm?

I do not support the traditional practice of Councilmanic Courtesy as it has been used in Baltimore County. While collegiality and collaboration among council members are important, the norm has too often functioned as a barrier to transparency, accountability, and community voice. When a single member can effectively control the fate of legislation or development decisions in their district — without broader scrutiny — it undermines democratic governance.

Why I oppose the practice

- It concentrates power in ways that are neither democratic nor equitable. Decisions that affect the entire county should not be shielded from full debate and public input.
- It limits transparency, allowing major development, zoning, and budget decisions to move forward without the level of public scrutiny residents deserve.
- It weakens community trust, especially in areas where residents already feel excluded from land-use and planning processes.
- It can enable special-interest influence, because decisions made behind closed doors are more vulnerable to pressure from well-connected actors.

What I support instead

- Full, public deliberation on all legislation and land-use decisions, regardless of district.
- Countywide accountability, because every council member is elected to serve the entire county's long-term health and fiscal stability.
- Community-centered decision-making, where residents have meaningful opportunities to weigh in before votes are taken.
- Clear rules and procedures, not unwritten norms, guiding how the Council conducts its business.

My commitment

If elected to the Baltimore County Council, I will evaluate every bill, appointment, and land-use decision on its merits, its equity impacts, and its alignment with countywide goals — not on the basis of deference to a single member. Respect among colleagues is important, but it cannot override transparency, fairness, or the public interest.



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

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.

Some concrete steps to expand affordable housing

1. Require a meaningful share of affordable units in larger new developments, especially near transit, job centers. Pair this with density bonuses and predictable timelines so projects remain feasible. Prioritize units affordable to very low- and low-income households, not just “workforce” levels, by layering County resources with state and federal tools (LIHTC, vouchers, project-based subsidies).

2. Unlock “missing middle” and gentle density inside the URDL by legalizing more housing types within zones. Update zoning to allow duplexes, triplexes, small apartment buildings, and courtyard housing in appropriate areas now limited to single-family homes, especially near existing infrastructure, transit, and services. Create more options for accessory dwelling units (ADUs): Make ADUs legal by right with clear, simple rules—creating options for seniors, caregivers, and young adults while stabilizing homeowners’ finances. Reuse underutilized commercial sites. Encourage mixed-use and residential redevelopment of aging shopping centers and large parking lots, particularly in western Baltimore County, to add homes without displacing existing stable neighborhoods.

3. Create or expand a County anti-displacement and preservation fund to acquire and rehabilitate older apartment complexes at risk of speculative purchase and rent spikes, keeping them affordable long-term. Str code enforcement with support: Enforce housing quality standards while offering repair grants/low-interest loans to small landlords and homeowners so we don’t lose naturally occurring affordable housing to neglect. Develop tenant protections: Support just-cause eviction standards, fair notice for rent increases, and right-to-counsel in eviction cases so families are not pushed into homelessness or forced out of the County.

4. Use public land and public dollars strategically for public good: Inventory County-owned parcels and prioritize them for affordable and mixed-income housing, including permanent supportive housing where appropriate.. Align these plans and strategies with the Baltimore County Master Plan 2030: Tie zoning, capital budgets, and transportation investments to the County’s adopted Master Plan so that infrastructure follows housing, not the other way around.



Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

I will not pretend we can solve the housing crisis by pushing the URDL outward. The responsible path is to build more—and more affordable—homes inside the URDL, protect tenants and existing communities, and use our land, zoning, and public dollars in a way that is fiscally responsible, environmentally sound, and centered on equity.

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

Under-Utilized Resources That Could Drive Economic Growth in Baltimore County
Baltimore County has enormous strengths—strategic location, diverse communities, major institutions, and a skilled workforce—but too many assets sit under-utilized. My focus is on unlocking these resources in ways that create good jobs, strengthen small businesses, and expand opportunity across the County.

1. Under-utilized commercial corridors and aging retail centers

Large portions of Liberty Road, Reisterstown Road, Security Boulevard, and parts of Towson and Essex contain vacant or underperforming strip malls and big-box sites. These properties are already served by infrastructure and transit.

How I would activate them

- Prioritize mixed-use redevelopment with housing, small business space, and community-serving uses.
- Use targeted incentives to attract employers in healthcar, logistics, clean energy, and tech.
- Streamline permitting for adaptive reuse so vacant spaces can quickly become job-creating spaces.

2. County-owned land and public facilities

Baltimore County owns parcels, buildings, and parking lots that could support economic development but lack a coordinated strategy.

How I would activate them

- Conduct a full inventory and make suitable sites available for affordable housing, small business incubators, green infrastructure, and community hubs.
- Co-locate services—workforce training, child care, health services—on public sites to support residents and employers.



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

3. Untapped workforce potential

The County has residents ready to work but lacking access to training, transportation, or wraparound supports.

How I would activate them

- Expand partnerships with CCBC, BCPS, unions, and employers to build pipelines in health care, skilled trades, IT, and clean energy.
- Bring training programs directly into communities—libraries, schools, and community centers—so residents don't have to travel far.

- Support child care, transportation, and apprenticeship stipends so more people can participate.

4. Under-supported small businesses and entrepreneurs

Small businesses—especially minority-owned and immigrant-owned—are engines of growth but face barriers to capital, permitting, and technical assistance.

How I would activate them

- Create a one-stop small business support center with permitting help, grant navigation, and technical assistance.
- Expand access to microloans and County-backed financing for start-ups and neighborhood businesses.
- Prioritize local and minority-owned businesses in County procurement.

5. Transit corridors and mobility infrastructure

Transit-served areas like Owings Mills, Woodlawn, Essex, and Towson are not fully leveraged for economic development.

How I would activate them

- Support transit-oriented development (TOD) that brings jobs, housing, and retail near transit.
- Improve first-mile/last-mile connections—sidewalks, bike lanes, shuttles—to make job centers more accessible.
- Coordinate land-use decisions with transportation investments to attract employers.

6. Innovation and institutional partnerships

Major institutions—UMBC, CCBC, Social Security Administration, hospitals, and federal agencies—are powerful economic anchors but not fully integrated into a Countywide growth strategy.



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

How I would activate them

- Build formal innovation partnerships to support research commercialization, tech transfer, and start-up incubation.
- Expand health-care workforce pipelines with hospitals and long-term care providers.
- Leverage federal agencies for contracting opportunities and workforce development.

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

The new Council District 3 is probably the most demographically, economically and geographically district, and therefore there must be two different plans for addressing their very different needs.

Greatest Need in Owings Mills & Randallstown — and My Plan to Address It

The greatest need in Owings Mills and Randallstown is building a stronger foundation of economic opportunity and community stability—which means safer, more connected neighborhoods, thriving commercial corridors, and reliable access to jobs, transit, and essential services. Residents consistently raise the same interconnected concerns: declining or vacant commercial areas, limited youth opportunities, traffic and transit gaps, and the rising cost of living. These challenges feed into each other, and solving them requires a coordinated approach.

1. Revitalize Commercial Corridors and Strengthen Local Business

Owings Mills and Randallstown have tremendous potential, but too many shopping centers and commercial properties along Liberty Road, Reisterstown Road, and parts of Owings Mills Boulevard are underperforming or vacant.

My plan

- Targeted redevelopment of aging shopping centers into mixed-use hubs with housing, retail, health services, and community spaces.
- Small business support, including permitting help, micro-grants, and technical assistance for minority-owned and immigrant-owned businesses.
- County–institution partnerships with CCBC, SSA, and local hospitals to attract employers and create job pipelines.



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

2. Improve Transportation and Connectivity

Residents in both communities rely heavily on transit, yet service is inconsistent, and many job centers are hard to reach without a car.

My plan

- Advocate for more frequent and reliable bus service, especially along Liberty Road and Reisterstown Road.
- Improve first-mile/last-mile connections—sidewalks, lighting, bike lanes, and safe crossings—to make it easier to reach transit and local businesses.
- Support transit-oriented development around Owings Mills Metro to bring jobs, housing, and retail closer together.

3. Expand Youth Opportunities and Community Safety

Families in both communities want more safe, structured spaces for young people and stronger prevention-focused public safety strategies.

My plan

- Expand after-school programs, recreation opportunities, and summer youth employment, especially in neighborhoods with limited access.
- Strengthen violence prevention and community-based interventions, partnering with trusted local organizations.
- Invest in park improvements, lighting, and safe public spaces to support community well-being.

4. Increase Affordable and Stable Housing Options

Owings Mills and Randallstown are experiencing rising rents, aging housing stock, and limited options for seniors, young adults, and working families.

My plan

- Support mixed-income housing near transit and job centers.
- Legalize accessory dwelling units (ADUs) with clear rules to create more affordable options.
- Preserve existing affordable housing through rehabilitation funds, code enforcement, and anti-displacement protections.



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

Greatest need in Worthington Valley and Greenspring Valley - and My Plan to Address It

Worthington Valley and Greenspring Valley are two of Baltimore County's most historic, environmentally sensitive, and rural-residential areas. Their greatest need is protecting rural character and natural resources while ensuring residents have access to essential services, safe roads, and responsible land-use planning. These communities value open space, agriculture, and environmental stewardship, yet they also face pressures from development, aging infrastructure, and limited local services.

1. Protect Rural Character and Prevent Encroaching Development

Both valleys sit outside the URDL and are defined by farmland, equestrian properties, historic landscapes, and critical watersheds. Residents' top concern is maintaining that rural identity.

My plan

- Hold the line on the URDL and oppose carve-outs or piecemeal upzoning that would invite suburban sprawl.
- Strengthen rural conservation zoning and support agricultural preservation easements.
- Ensure any proposed development undergoes rigorous environmental review, including stormwater, forest conservation, and traffic impacts.

2. Preserve Natural Resources and Watersheds

The valleys contain some of the County's most sensitive environmental assets—streams feeding the Jones Falls, Gunpowder, and Loch Raven watersheds; steep slopes; and forested areas.

My plan

- Increase enforcement of forest conservation, sediment control, and stormwater regulations.
- Expand County partnerships with land trusts and conservation organizations.
- Prioritize stream restoration, tree planting, and flood-mitigation projects in vulnerable areas.

3. Improve Road Safety and Infrastructure Without Urbanizing the Area

Residents consistently raise concerns about narrow rural roads, speeding, and unsafe intersections—especially where agricultural, equestrian, and residential uses intersect.

My plan

- Implement traffic-calming measures, targeted enforcement, and safety improvements on



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Linda Dorsey-Walker, M.B.A.

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

key corridors like Greenspring Avenue, Worthington Avenue, and Tufton Avenue.

- Repair and maintain rural roads while avoiding widening or urban-style expansion that would change the character of the valleys.
- Improve drainage and stormwater systems to reduce flooding and erosion.

4. Support Agricultural and Equestrian Economies

These communities rely on agriculture, equestrian activities, and heritage tourism—sectors that contribute to the County’s economy but often lack County-level support.

My plan

- Expand agricultural preservation programs and support farm viability through grants, agritourism, and local food initiatives.
- Work with equestrian organizations to maintain safe riding routes, trail access, and event support.
- Promote heritage tourism that respects rural character while supporting local businesses.

5. Ensure Access to Essential Services Without Overdevelopment

Rural residents often face gaps in broadband, emergency services, and health or social supports.

My plan

- Advocate for universal broadband access in rural areas.
- Strengthen EMS response times through strategic stationing and staffing.
- Bring mobile or co-located services—health screenings, senior supports, environmental education—into community hubs without adding large new facilities.