



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Makeda Scott

Position: Baltimore County Council

District: 3

What is your position regarding the Councilmanic Courtesy norm?

I am not in favor of councilmanic courtesy. This long-standing practice often hinders countywide development and prevents equitable decision-making. Each district's issues are interconnected, and decisions about zoning, development, and public investment should be made based on what's best for all residents of Baltimore County, not just the preferences of one council member. We need greater collaboration among the council to ensure that progress serves the entire county.

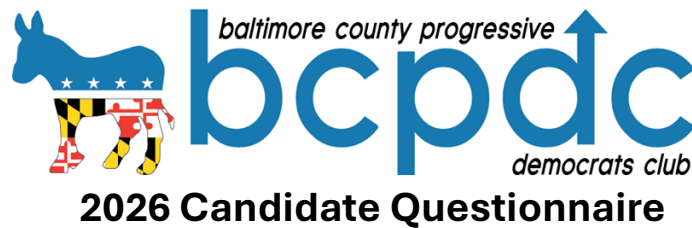
What concrete steps will you take to address the acute shortage of affordable housing in Baltimore County? Please include your position on the current Urban-Rural Dividing Line.

Baltimore County faces a serious housing shortage that demands bold, practical solutions. I will focus on repurposing vacant buildings into affordable housing, requiring inclusionary zoning so new developments include affordable units, and partnering with state and local agencies and nonprofits to create long-term, stable housing options that prevent displacement.

I strongly support maintaining the Urban-Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) to prevent sprawl and protect rural land. Our focus should be on smart redevelopment within the URDL—revitalizing existing neighborhoods, improving infrastructure, and ensuring development benefits residents, not just developers.

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

Baltimore County has significant untapped potential that could drive economic growth. We can better utilize vacant and underused commercial spaces by transforming them into small business hubs, CTE (Career and Technical Education) training centers, innovation spaces, and mixed-use developments. The County should also expand partnerships with state and local agencies, nonprofits, and trade organizations to grow apprenticeship and workforce training programs—particularly in green jobs, technology, and the trades. By investing in our people and repurposing our spaces, we can create sustainable economic opportunities across the County.



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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 the revitalization and repurposing of vacant buildings and underused spaces to create vibrant community centers, youth programs, and affordable housing opportunities. We are currently without a community center in Owings Mills, and there is a clear need for additional green space and community centers for children and families across the district. Many residents lack accessible places to gather, play, and connect.

As a Council member, I will prioritize smart redevelopment within existing communities, encourage public-private partnerships, and work closely with state and local agencies, nonprofits, and residents to transform these sites into assets that meet community needs. I will also advocate for infrastructure improvements, expanded public transit, and workforce training programs that connect residents to good-paying local jobs.

My focus is on building a district where every neighborhood and community will prosper.