

## **Gubernatorial Forum Responses from: Robin Ficker**

### QUESTIONS FROM GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE CLIMATE FORUMS - MARCH 8 and MARCH 9, 2022 Climate Policies

#### Climate Policies

1. How important is it for you to make Maryland a leader in fighting climate change, and to be seen as a climate leader yourself?

Very important for the Governor to be seen as the state leader. I push immediately to double the electricity production of Calvert Cliffs from one million to two million homes.

2. Would you hire a climate czar in your administration? If so, what would that person's responsibilities be?

As Governor, I shall be the climate czar. Promoting a clean healthy environment.

3. What efforts will your administration support to decarbonize Maryland's government operations and/or the Maryland economy? Will you commit to investing in green or environmentally friendly schools, libraries and other public facilities to continue the reduction of Maryland's carbon footprint?

I get things done having placed about 25 ballot questions before the voters which have received 2,537,403 votes., including successful ones to keep sewage sludge trenching and garbage dumps out of residential zones. I'll be seen as green.

4. What are your plans for increasing access to affordable renewable energy for Maryland residents?

We are going to double Calvert Cliffs clean electricity and stop selling such local energy to other states.

5. Does nuclear power need to be part of Maryland's clean energy portfolio? How do you propose to safely store nuclear waste from the Calvert Cliffs plant?

Yes. Calvert Cliffs has been safely disposing of its nuclear waste for two generations and will continue to do so.

6. How would you commit to working with environmental justice advocacy organizations in Maryland to help you identify and select the heads of agencies

## **Gubernatorial Forum Responses from: Robin Ficker**

and commissions responsible for protecting our environment? Do you feel the state should diversify the leaders on environmental commissions and in agencies?

Sure. And I am going to have an open house every Monday morning at 6 am, first come, first served, for Marylanders to come and give me advice as to how to make Maryland fair, futuristic and prosperous

7. How will you prioritize and ensure funding allocated to address environmental injustice will be used in the communities impacted most by climate change – and who will oversee this effort?

I shall be in charge. Having completed 40,000+ cases in Maryland Courts and overturned 5 state and local laws in Federal Court, I know what fairness is. Do you think that Rosa Parks would have appointed me as the first General Counsel for the National Caucus on the Black Aged if I didn't recognize injustice?

### Agriculture and Water Quality

8. Agricultural runoff is widely accepted to be the biggest contributor to Chesapeake Bay pollution. How do you plan to reduce farm runoff? Have you accepted or do you plan to accept any campaign contributions from the poultry industry?

We need safe, effective, clean animal waste disposal plans. I have no such contributions.

9. The state does not regulate or monitor emissions from poultry plants on the Shore, even though residents there have complained about ill effects from the ammonia and other greenhouse gasses. As governor, would you monitor this air quality?

Yes.

10. Plastics are a major source of pollution for fish and crabs. Individual cities have instituted plastic bag bills, but most jurisdictions do not have them, and the state does not have one, either. As governor, what would you do to reduce plastic and microplastics in our waterways? What measures will you take to require manufacturers and merchants to cover the true cost of their production and use of plastics?

We need to reproduce the wonderful Montgomery County recycling plant elsewhere. Use containers that disintegrate in a relatively short time. End plastics incineration.

### Transportation

## **Gubernatorial Forum Responses from: Robin Ficker**

11. Do you plan to revive the Red Line proposal in Baltimore? How would you make up for the economic development lost to Baltimore since Gov. Hogan killed the Red Line?

The state Dept of Commerce has been asleep. Big companies like Amazon, Apple, Facebook/Meta, Global Foundries, Google, Intel, Microsoft, Nucor Steel, Samsung, Taiwan Semiconductor, Intel, Texas Instruments, Tesla, and Toyota have located multi-Billion \$ plants in other states in the past couple of years. Our Jobs Strike Force will visit these large expanding companies and convince them to locate their well paying jobs in MD. We shall use a 2 cent sales tax cut or \$780/yr/household sales tax cut to lure them to business friendly MD, expanding our tax base, so we can expand our transportation plans and projects.

12. Do you support proceeding with Gov. Hogan's plans to widen the Capital Beltway and Interstate 270? Do you anticipate that the next governor will be able to kill or alter the project?

Yes.

13. During the pandemic, transit ridership has fallen across the country. Because Baltimore's workforce has a high percentage of essential workers, Baltimore's ridership fell about 55-60% compared to 94% in the California bay area. With two out of three jobs in our region requiring at least a 90-minute commute by public transportation, how would you determine the level of investments you would make in public transit services?

We have to keep the system running smoothly.

14. Shortly after coming to office, Gov. Hogan canceled the shovel-ready Red Line light rail project that would have brought 10,000 jobs in a five-year construction phase, dramatically reduced commute times, and \$3.0 - \$6.5 billion in transit-oriented-development. The Purple Line from Bethesda to New Carrollton was approved for construction and already has \$12.0 billion committed to development along its corridor. How would you make up for the economic development lost to Baltimore?

See my answer to #11.

### Climate Mitigation Measures

15. We are losing many historic sites on the Eastern Shore, including Black churches, due to sea-level rise. The Maryland Historical Trust has very little funding to

## **Gubernatorial Forum Responses from: Robin Ficker**

assist with rebuilding and relocating. How would you allocate resources to ensure we do not lose this history?

Maryland's pension system is not even doing as well as index funds.

Save hundred\$ of million\$ by getting rid of these overpaid pension fund managers.

16. What efforts will your administration support to decarbonize Maryland's government operations and/or the Maryland economy? Will you commit to investing in green or environmentally friendly schools, libraries and other public facilities to continue the reduction of Maryland's carbon footprint?

It all starts at the top and I shall do a good job for the environment and climate. Yes.