



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

### 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?

As detailed in my full Climate Change policy memo shared since last January 2021 (<https://jainforgov.medium.com/climate-change-f3a093f3b9bf>), I would focus on everything from Climate Justice; stopping the subsidization of trash incinerators and paper mills; mandating Environmental Impact Studies; Protecting and Investing in the Bay (including increasing poultry farm inspections, investing in stormwater detention systems and assisting with oyster restoration); Investing in Clean Energy (solar, community solar programs for residents, hydro and wind); Improving our state's RPS; making public transit free; increasing access to public transportation projects; smart growth and mixed-use development; ban single-use plastic bags; ending state funding of synthetic turf on playgrounds; and improving composting throughout the state.

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

I would support creating a Climate Director which can help coordinate efforts. By tackling this issue in a comprehensive way, being detailed and transparent from day one of my campaign and from day one of my Administration, and actively engaging scientists and community members, we can ensure the issue of Climate Change is prioritized and tackled sincerely and sustainably.

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

For questions 3 and 4, I would focus on the following:

- We must ensure that all legislative bills which could have an impact on our environment (for example, those that focus on transportation, infrastructure or housing), have environmental impact studies conducted before the Governor signs them into law.
  - I would increase the Fossil Fuel fee in our state..
  - Solar Energy – I pledge to:
    - Require solar panels on the rooftops of all existing schools and government-owned buildings — starting with the State Capital — as well as encourage and incentivize the development of green roofs.
    - Focus on Brownfield Redevelopment that are perfect for solar fields.
    - Exempt certain community solar systems from property taxes if they provide at least 50% of the energy they produce to low and moderate income customers.
  - Wind Power – We need to invest in offshore wind farms in the Atlantic Ocean and approve the U.S. Wind Project and the Skipjack Offshore Energy Project off the shore of Ocean City.
  - Home Construction – We must set stronger standards for how homes in our state are constructed.
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?
  6. How would you commit to working with environmental justice advocacy organizations in Maryland to help you identify and select the heads of agencies and commissions responsible for protecting our environment? Do you feel the state should diversify the leaders on environmental commissions and in agencies?
  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?

For questions 6 and 7 - my Climate Director and I will focus on sincere Climate Justice. First - and most importantly - I would continue to engage these communities and give them a real seat at the table (as I have done with my 100% crowdsourced and volunteer-run campaign). I would also tackle the issues in a comprehensive way (as noted earlier) so we can finally move beyond empty rhetoric and false campaign promises

That’s also why - since launching my campaign last January 2021 - I have been campaigning on halting any new fracking; and reforming the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, as well as the Public Service Commission. We must ensure both of these Commissions reflect the diversity (and therefore lived experiences) of our state; and ensure no members of the Commissions worked for — or helped represent — the fossil fuel industry and non-renewable energy sources.

### 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?

I do not accept ANY contributions from developers, corporations, businesses, PACs or the poultry industry. I am also the only candidate in my race who has committed to having 100% of my events completely free and open to the press.

To ensure runoff is captured and filtered before entering our Bay, we must invest more in these filtration systems. And while it may cost our state more in the short-term, these are investments which will bring long-term improvements to our local economy and Eastern Shore communities. Furthermore, we should provide tax incentives for farmers who use these systems.

We must also end state funding of synthetic turf playgrounds — Currently, most of our playgrounds are made of plastic grass filled with shredded tires. These contain a host of toxic chemicals dangerous to our residents, children and the environment. A healthier and more sustainable alternative is natural grass turf. This will also help us manage runoff rainwater and be safer and healthier for our communities.

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?

(1) Increase the frequency of poultry farm inspections – To ensure that we can both sustainably feed our residents and protect the health of our Bay, we should inspect these farms more than just once every five years. This will also cost us less in the long-term as we will spend less on Bay restoration.

(2) Limit the use of poultry manure – and invest in new technology that could generate energy from this manure.

(3) Invest in more Stormwater Detention Systems – To ensure runoff is captured and filtered before entering our Bay, we must invest more in these filtration systems. And while it may cost our state more in the short-term, these are investments which will bring long-term improvements to our local economy and Eastern Shore communities. Furthermore, we should provide tax incentives for farmers who use these systems.

And (4) Oyster Restoration – provide more funding to the University of Maryland's Horn Point Lab that has been working to recycle used shells from local seafood restaurants to grow new oysters; provide dedicated funding to nonprofits like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation which has

various restoration projects, including solar-powered oyster farms; and protect oyster reef sanctuaries within the Bay.

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?

One solution I support is to Ban single-use plastic bags — Banning single-use plastic bags is an important continuation from Maryland's leadership in being the first state to ban single-use food and drink containers made from styrofoam. We need to go further and ban single-use plastic to further reduce ocean and bay waste and relieve pressure on landfills and waste management. In the short term, similar to Montgomery County, we must require businesses that sell food in every county to charge five cents for each carryout plastic bag. Two of those cents should go to local governments and three of those cents should go to our MD Department of the Environment and ensure that all revenue generated through this fee be used strictly for environmental protection projects. In the long term, we should follow the lead of California, New York, Vermont, and Maine in phasing out all usage of single-use plastic bags at all businesses that sell food — with an exemption for trash bags and bags provided by pharmacies for prescription drugs.

### Transportation

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?

YES - and I support a comprehensive infrastructure plan that reduces congestion, pollution, and provides greater security, accessibility and connectivity for all around our state. This will also connect people to jobs (thus fostering greater economic security) and connect businesses to their employees (thus helping our local economy).

My full plan (found here: <https://jainforgov.medium.com/transportation-c96c3f396c1>) goes into detail my plans to making public transit FREE for every resident; ensuring environmental impact studies for all transportation projects; expanding Metro (Red and Purple lines, in addition to the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project); expanding MARC Train services; expanding ridesharing; more designated bus lanes; smarth growth and mixed-use development; and sustainably expanding the Bay Bridge (using the findings of the environmental impact studies that were conducted).

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?

NO - I am strongly opposed to plans to privatize, widen and create multi-directional toll lanes on I-270. They approved the contract with a selected developer prior to completing an environmental impact report — that's against promises made to us; this plan does not address the congestion that will remain on the non-toll lanes; and this plan does not address how we're going to pay for the relocation costs for almost 70 miles of water and sewer pipes or the residents that will be forced to move.

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?

Public transit should be accessible to all Marylanders and financial barriers should be eliminated. Therefore, as part of my Maryland Now Plan, I will make Maryland the first state in the nation to offer free public transit for all residents, everyone from students to retirees.

Why This Is A Great Idea:

- It will reduce the cost of living for employers and employees
- It will help students — especially those in underserved areas — get to and from school
- It will benefit seniors and retirees better age-in-place
- It will increase mobility and access for those in the disability community
- It will play a critical role in combating climate change by making mass transit a more accessible, convenient, and viable alternative to private cars.

How Will I Pay For This:

- IN THE SHORT-TERM: we raise the tobacco tax by \$1 per pack on cigarettes (which will fully make up for the bus and rail fares our state currently takes in).
- IN THE LONG-TERM: By connecting more people to job centers, linking businesses to their suppliers and customers, and making it easier for employers to attract and retain employees — our state can bring more jobs, education, healthcare and recreation services within every Marylander's reach.

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?

A comprehensive infrastructure system will help make up for the economic development lost. But we must also focus on increasing revenue streams by keeping people in our state. My “Maryland Now Plan” can help.

By eliminating the state income tax for 95% of workers - my plan saves the average Marylander about \$2,000 a year; Increases take-home pay; Enables economic mobility and stability for those struggling to get by; Strengthens our economy; and does all this without increasing property taxes.

By guaranteeing jobs for every Marylander - my plan will have our state government serve as an employer of last resort and help us: Increase our state revenues — with the potential of 200,000 newly employed individuals who will now be able to pay taxes and have greater disposable income; Increase employability and economic inclusion for those experiencing challenges or discrimination finding work (including veterans, spouses of those in active-duty, women, those who are LGBTQ+, those with disabilities, those impacted by the justice system and people of color); and Improve the overall health and sustainability of our economy.

Full details can be found here:

<https://jainforgov.medium.com/the-maryland-now-plan-eliminating-the-state-income-tax-and-a-guaranteed-jobs-program-8ed25788ec47>