

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? *[188 Words out of 200]*

Maryland used to be a national leader in our fight against climate change, but over the past eight years we have watched as a failure of executive leadership set us back, cost us over \$10 billion in inaction, and put our communities at risk. I believe that we need to make sure the people closest to the problems are also closest to the solutions, bringing local voices to the table as partners, and that's exactly what I'm going to do as governor. Our administration will employ an entire-government approach, put us on the path to generate 100% clean energy by 2035, reach net-zero emissions by 2045 and mitigate the worst effects of climate change, prioritizing environmental justice throughout the process. The fight against climate change is an urgent crisis that needs a leader who has the experience to leverage the federal dollars and private capital to address these issues and create opportunities for Maryland's families. I have the comprehensive vision and experience to bring people together to live up to the principle that I learned leading soldiers in combat – if we want different, we have to do different.

2) Would you hire a climate czar in your administration? If so, what would that person's responsibilities be? *[104 Words out of 200]*

As governor, I am committed to establishing and appointing a Statewide Sustainability, Mitigation and Resilience Officer who will report directly to me, maintain regular communication with stakeholders and coordinate with relevant state and local agencies to implement solutions to tackle climate change. They will also work together with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to ensure that we are prioritizing equity, labor and environmental justice throughout our transition to a green economy. Finally, this position will also be responsible for communication between local Resilience Authorities, share and promote best practices, and work together to increase the state's overall impact on climate change.

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? *[200 Words out of 200]*

As the next Governor of Maryland, I will set clear targets and deadlines to achieve a 60% reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and net-zero emissions by 2045. We know that greenhouse gasses (GHGs), whether carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide or others, are produced by every sector of our economy and live in our atmosphere for many years. These dangerous emissions will continue to affect our everyday lives for decades to come and jeopardize our health, safety and well-being, but the good news is that with more sustainable practices we can curb them. Unfortunately, Maryland's current emissions reduction goals are falling short. That is why, as governor, we will leverage billions in federal infrastructure funds to ensure Maryland generates 100% clean energy by 2035, eliminating emissions from burning

fossil fuels. We will also electrify the state's transportation fleet, create incentives for people and companies to use electric vehicles (EVs), invest in energy efficiency through cost-saving programs and accelerate carbon capture and sequestration efforts. Finally, we must work with our agriculture and forestry industries to support more sustainable practices to reduce GHG emissions. These efforts will lower costs for consumers and produce tremendous advancements in our fight against climate change.

4) What are your plans for increasing access to affordable renewable energy for Maryland residents? [137 Words out of 200]

To reach our clean energy goals by 2035 and energy independence, Maryland must dramatically increase investments in solar and wind production, as well as prioritize advancements in battery storage. With offshore wind alone, Maryland has the potential to meet a third of the total energy demand, equivalent to powering every home in the state. A Moore-Miller administration will ensure that additional families and communities, especially low-income communities, can affordably obtain solar installations for their homes or benefit from community solar programs. We will also focus on reducing energy consumption and the burden on our electric grid by setting aggressive energy efficiency targets for utilities, buildings and industries and putting consumer incentive programs in place that will enable Marylanders to affordably electrify their high-consumption appliances like heat pumps and purchase more efficient products like lightbulbs and smart thermostats.

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? [98 Words out of 200]

My comprehensive plan sets aggressive targets to generate 100% clean energy by 2035, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. When it comes to nuclear energy production, we must focus our attention on strong safety precautions and proper waste disposal practices while also recognizing it is a major component of our energy portfolio and will have to remain so until we can make advancements in wind and solar generation and more importantly - battery storage. Our administration will work together with experts and stakeholders including the Maryland League of Conservation Voters to implement best practices for safely storing nuclear waste.

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? [200 Words out of 200]

Environmental justice to me is about ensuring underrepresented communities that have been impacted the most by the effects of climate change, like air pollution, extreme heat, flooding and high energy costs, are protected and prioritized. And I will ensure these communities always have seats and voices at the table. I will work in close partnership with stakeholders,

including the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, in hiring decisions for agency heads and commissions responsible for protecting our environment because I believe the people closest to the challenges are also closest to the solutions. I also believe that our administration should reflect the diversity of Maryland. This is an issue I've led on throughout my career and will continue leading on as governor. When I became CEO of one of the nation's largest poverty fighting organizations, zero people in the executive team were people of color, when I left - over half were. Of the 25 current cabinet members, only six are women, zero are Black, and one is Puerto Rican. We must do a better job of building a diverse administration that is truly reflective of this state and that is exactly what I will do as the next Governor of Maryland.

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? [196 Words out of 200]

As the CEO of one of the nation's largest anti-poverty nonprofits, people asked how inequities show themselves. My answer was simple: it shows itself everywhere. In the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the ability to live in communities resistant to the ever present dangers of climate change. Here in Maryland, low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to live in urban heat islands where temperatures can be seven degrees higher than neighboring areas. We cannot allow any community to be left behind and that means lifting up voices of the most vulnerable Marylanders. Our new state motto will be "leave nobody behind." As governor, I will not only empower the Environmental Justice Commission to do their work, but I will also make sure that the group's recommendations are recognized and implemented. Like the Maryland Climate Change Commission, it's time to get these great ideas off the drawing table and into action through formal accountability and mandates. Additionally, as we work to build a clean energy economy, we have to ensure that the communities that have been impacted the most benefit the most from these new technologies, jobs and reduced energy costs.

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? [182 Words out of 200]

Improving the monitoring of pesticide use and ensuring the reduction of conventional pesticide use is critical to the health and well-being of the environment and our communities. Not only will my administration work towards reducing conventional pesticide use, we will also leverage federal funds to improve storm and wastewater management systems and work with Maryland's thriving agriculture and forestry industry to implement sustainable practices to reduce runoff. My administration will also work to restore our oyster and mussel populations, which are natural filtration systems for our waterways, a key tool for improving our waterways and a mechanism to create economic opportunities for watermen and aquaculture growers.

Gubernatorial Forum Responses from: Wes Moore

I will always maintain absolute integrity and full transparency on all campaign finance contributions. Since announcing our campaign, we have raised nearly \$5 million from our grassroots coalition from all across the state, and 73% of those donations were \$100 or less. And as governor, I will be placing all of my assets into a blind trust to make clear that every decision our administration makes is in the best interest of the people of Maryland.

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? [141 Words out of 200]

Maryland's agriculture and forestry industry is our largest private sector industry, supporting more than 80,000 jobs and generating billions in economic impact each year. This industry supplies us with critical resources, including food, but also unfortunately contributes to emissions and waste. I know our farmers and foresters care deeply about land conservation and our environment, and as governor, I will work with them to cut down on dangerous emissions and help them to implement more sustainable practices. By adopting more innovative strategies and technologies, we are protecting our environment while also helping to increase production and generate additional profits for these businesses. I am also committed to installing air quality sensors in the eight counties in Maryland that lack one to better monitor and take action to improve air quality and alert residents when local air pollution is particularly dangerous.

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? [109 Words out of 200]

Maryland needs to be doing everything that it can to reduce plastic waste, and mitigate damage that has already taken place. Reducing the prevalence of single-use plastics is a meaningful change that should be encouraged. My administration will make every effort to put the state in the best position possible to effect in the way that Marylanders use plastic. Bills introduced in the last legislative session including HB314, the "Plastic Bag Reduction Act," would ban the use of single-use plastics statewide. I fully support this bill and would gladly sign this legislation as governor. This is a statewide starting point that my administration would build off of going forward.

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? [200 Words out of 200]

We will fully support the revitalization of the Red Line. It's important to recognize the value of transportation, not only as a means of mobility but as an economic engine and as a vehicle for helping lift people out of poverty. It is clear that the governor's plan to replace the Red Line rail project with revisions to the Maryland Transit Authority regional bus lines is not meeting our communities' needs and particularly the ones that rely on public transit the most. A bus trip from Woodlawn High School to Hopkins Bayview would take an hour and 20 minutes, making it nearly impossible for someone without a car to find and keep a good job and it hinders the ability of our business to find employees. We need to do a better job of connecting people to opportunities and we will dedicate the resources needed to ensure that our public transportation system is reliable and gets people to work and school on time. This includes building the Red Line and making other improvements to the state's mass transit system, like approving commuter rail stations in West Baltimore, Bayview, and other historically neglected communities to provide people with access to employment.

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? [194 Words out of 200]

We are opposed to the plan for I-270 as proposed by the Hogan Administration. Little collaboration was provided between local jurisdictions and the current P3 procurement process is deeply flawed with minimal public oversight and transparency. Our administration will improve transit in the region in a manner that prioritizes equity, community voice, and increasing economic opportunity. We will build an efficient and equitable transportation system that unharnesses economic growth in our region, drives billions in new investment, protects our environment and our neighbors, and connects people with employers. We will provide equity and opportunity in transportation planning by ensuring that our efforts to improve mass transit focus on the people who rely on it the most, addressing the connection between transportation and public health, removing the politics from transportation planning and investment to ensure merit-based project funding, and implementing procurement reform. As a result of the billions of federal dollars coming to Maryland as a result of the infrastructure plan, we have an unprecedented opportunity to make the structural improvements needed to bring generational change to Maryland, but we must ensure that the economic opportunities that come with this investment are available to everyone.

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? [193 Words out of 200]

As a result of the billions of federal dollars coming to Maryland as a result of the infrastructure plan, we have an unprecedented opportunity to make the structural improvements needed to build a stronger economy, but we must ensure that the economic opportunities that come with this investment are available to everyone. Unreliable and unaffordable public transportation makes it nearly impossible for someone without a car to find and keep a good job and it hinders the ability of our businesses to attract and retain employees.

It's important to recognize the value of transportation, not only as a means of mobility but as an economic engine and as a vehicle for helping lift people out of poverty. We need to do a better job of connecting people to opportunities and a Moore-Miller administration will dedicate the resources needed to ensure that our public transportation system is reliable and gets people to work and school on time. This includes building the Red Line and making other improvements to the state's mass transit system, like approving commuter rail stations in West Baltimore, Bayview, and other historically neglected communities to provide people with access to employment.

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? [200 Words out of 200]

We will fully support the revitalization of the Red Line. It's important to recognize the value of transportation, not only as a means of mobility but as an economic engine and as a vehicle for helping lift people out of poverty. It is clear that the governor's plan to replace the Red Line rail project with revisions to the Maryland Transit Authority regional bus lines is not meeting our communities' needs and particularly the ones that rely on public transit the most. A bus trip from Woodlawn High School to Hopkins Bayview would take an hour and 20 minutes, making it nearly impossible for someone without a car to find and keep a good job and it hinders the ability of our business to find employees. We need to do a better job of connecting people to opportunities and we will dedicate the resources needed to ensure that our public transportation system is reliable and gets people to work and school on time. This includes building the Red Line and making other improvements to the state's mass transit system, like approving commuter rail stations in West Baltimore, Bayview, and other historically neglected communities to provide people with access to employment.

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 assist with rebuilding and relocating. How would you allocate resources to ensure we do not lose this history? *[155 Words out of 200]*

Today, 81,000 Marylanders are at risk of flooding, and by 2050 that number will increase to nearly 120,000. Experts also predict that by the end of the century 61,000 homes in Maryland could be completely underwater, including nearly 25% of homes on the Eastern Shore, totaling \$19 billion in real estate damage. Beyond the economic damages and losing our homes, we're also losing our history. I think about the recent study which found that 10 historic locations along the Harriet Tubman Byway are at risk of recurrent flooding including Scott's Chapel where her family worshiped and Malone's church, the first African American church established in the area after the Civil War. That's why as governor, I will fully fund the Environmental Justice Commission and ensure their work includes recommendations on best practices to protect and preserve these historic sites on the Eastern Shore such as investments in green infrastructure and natural barriers.

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? *[200 Words out of 200]*

As the next Governor of Maryland, I will set clear targets and deadlines to achieve a 60% reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and net-zero emissions by 2045. We know that greenhouse gasses (GHGs), whether carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide or others, are produced by every sector of our economy and live in our atmosphere for many years. These dangerous emissions will continue to affect our everyday lives for decades to come and jeopardize our health, safety and well-being, but the good news is that with more sustainable practices we can curb them. Unfortunately, Maryland's current emissions reduction goals are falling short. That is why, as governor, we will leverage billions in federal infrastructure funds to ensure Maryland generates 100% clean energy by 2035, eliminating emissions from burning fossil fuels. We will also electrify the state's transportation fleet, create incentives for people and companies to use electric vehicles (EVs), invest in energy efficiency through cost-saving programs and accelerate carbon capture and sequestration efforts. Finally, we must work with our agriculture and forestry industries to support more sustainable practices to reduce GHG emissions. These efforts will lower costs for consumers and produce tremendous advancements in our fight against climate change.