

Rich Madaleno



AFT-Maryland Candidate Questionnaire for Baltimore City Races

AFT-Maryland is a federation of local unions of the AFT within the state, including the Baltimore Teachers Union and the City Union of Baltimore—whose members work for the city—as well as state employee members of the Maryland Professional Employees Council, AFT Healthcare-Maryland, and the Maryland Classified Employees Association. Together, with the Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees, AFT-Maryland has thousands of members who work to make the region and the state a better place for its residents and children.

The AFT-Maryland has prepared the following questionnaire for candidates running to represent us in Annapolis as a means to familiarize the candidates with issues that our members care about most. It also allows us the chance to see where the candidates stand on these issues.

AFT-Maryland locals participate fully in the endorsement process of the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Council; the council will announce its final endorsements in early 2018. However, because we are a large contingency within the Baltimore AFL-CIO, the unions of the AFT-Maryland have a heavy influence on who Labor chooses as its candidates for endorsement.

Please take the time to complete this candidate questionnaire. It may be returned to

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Please return this completed questionnaire no later than January 5th, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Todd Reynolds, AFT-Maryland Political Coordinator, at 410-764-3030.

2018 Candidate Questionnaire—Representation in Annapolis
AFT-Maryland

Candidate for Maryland Governor

Candidate's name Richard S. Madaleno, Jr.

Address _____

Phone _____

Campaign Manager)

Occupation State Senator Who is your employer? The People of Maryland

May we make your answers to our questionnaire public? YES

Party affiliation (circle one):

Democrat Republican Independent Other (please specify) _____

Have you received an endorsement from a labor union? If so, which ones?

Yes, MSEA, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, MCGEO, IAF, FOP, SEIU and others in my campaigns for the state legislature.

Have you ever held elected office? When? 2007 – Present in the State Senate. 2003 – 2007 in the House of Delegates.

General

1. The AFT-Maryland is a federation of numerous employee unions, including Baltimore City teachers and paraprofessional and school-related personnel (BTU); professional state workers (MPEC—Maryland Professional Employees Council), state healthcare professionals (AFT Healthcare-Maryland), state classified employees (MCEA—Maryland Classified Employees Association); as well county and city employees. Why should we support your campaign?

- I urge you to support my campaign for governor because I will provide real results and proven progressive leadership on issues of importance to Maryland working families. I am the only

candidate with a proven record of accomplishments -- in areas critical to Maryland families such as education, civil rights, labor, and support for public employee unions -- and a true progressive vision for our future. There is no other candidate in the race - including the incumbent - who brings a track record of leadership and real results for the people of Maryland. I have served as an effective and unrelenting champion for the entire state -- its children, its educators and its workforce. From education to transportation, from economic development to economic justice, from sustainable health care to environmental sustainability -- no other candidate has taken on so many of the toughest fights from the inside -- and won them. On the critical issues facing the people of our state, we need a bold, tireless governor who can set an agenda of progress for all Marylanders. I will be that Governor.

My goal is to make sure all young people "Thrive by 25" by improving the quality and accessibility of education at all levels, so that young people are ready to succeed in the career of their choosing. I am currently a member of the Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education (a.k.a. The Kirwan Commission) and see many ways we can improve the statewide quality of education for our children and for those who deliver education services. To achieve these goals, I will build a 21st century public school system for Maryland; increase resources to our schools and at-risk students; recruit, support and retain high quality teachers, and pay them accordingly; build and support community schools; expand pre-kindergarten programs; enhance efforts for children with special needs; and ensure students' nutritional needs are met. I will develop new, innovative programs to ensure college affordability, such as creating education savings accounts for children in kindergarten, and ensuring tuition-free community college and free college for families with incomes below \$150,000. I will initiate additional career and technical education and apprenticeship programs to provide critical training and experience.

My record of legislative accomplishment is extensive. I created and championed the Hunger-Free Schools Act, which resulted in free breakfast and lunch for qualified students in Baltimore and across Maryland, as well as the Maryland Meals for Achievement Teens Act, which allows secondary schools to provide breakfast after arrival time throughout the school including from Grab & Go carts, helping to ensure that students' nutritional needs are met and that students are ready to learn. I co-sponsored the law which requires new or renovated schools to have gymnasiums for physical education instruction. I also co-sponsored successful legislation requiring awareness education of the risks to students of concussions and head injuries. To improve younger students' preparation for kindergarten, I co-sponsored the 2014 law which expands pre-Kindergarten programs to serve more of the students who need them most and have proposed supplemental state grants to fund pre-Kindergarten programs. I co-sponsored our law that requires parents to be provided notice of eligibility for pre-Kindergarten programs.

I am a strong leader for progress for working families. This legislative session I am introducing the Fight for \$15 bill to bring the \$15 per hour minimum wage to Maryland. This bill also indexes the minimum wage to inflation and phases out the "tipped worker credit", which is a significant step in addressing the wage gap between men and women, particularly in the restaurant industry.

I have also been working to improve the quality of public education throughout Maryland's school system. I co-sponsored the law that calls for instruction in mathematics throughout high school and sets out specific graduation requirements and assessment of college readiness. I also co-sponsored the law establishing the Maryland program to encourage bi-literacy in public high schools.

I believe that teachers should be treated as the professionals they are and should have a voice in improving education in Maryland. Last year I proposed legislation that would add teachers and parents to the membership of the Maryland State Board of Education and have introduced similar legislation this year as well. I proposed collective bargaining rights for community college employees. I co-sponsored the law which increases stipends to certified teachers and encourages mentoring and training of new teachers. I also co-sponsored legislation to study strategies to increase the number of minority teachers.

Based on my proven record and real commitment to progressive values, I ask that AFT-Maryland support my candidacy for Governor. I would be honored were you to decide to do so.

2. Have you ever been a member of a union? If yes, please give the union name, local number, and dates active.

- In recognition of my longstanding commitment to labor, for the past three years I have been an officer of the National Labor Caucus of State Legislators. I have never served in a position that afforded me the right to join a union, however, my husband was a member of MCGEO for several years before he was promoted into an ineligible position.

Worker Rights

3. Expanding the right to collective bargaining. Right now, even though a number of state employees and public school employees in Maryland have collective bargaining, many still do not. For example, state workers in the judiciary branch; higher education workers like grad students, adjuncts, and tenure-track faculty in the University of Maryland System; and teachers and staff at the Maryland School for the Deaf and at the SEED School; all do not currently enjoy the right to bargain collectively. If elected, will you sponsor legislation to grant these public employees the right to engage in collective bargaining with their employer?

- Yes. I strongly support collective bargaining for public employees and support processes such as majority sign-up and neutrality agreements that enable workers to exercise their right to organize without harassment or intimidation. I have an extensive record of supporting collective bargaining rights for employees. I co-sponsored and advocated for legislation to allow collective bargaining for community college employees, including adjunct professors. I co-sponsored the following laws in support of collective bargaining: the establishment of collective bargaining rights for specified family child care providers who participate in Maryland's Child Care Subsidy Program; the law which requires each local Board of Education and employee organizations representing public school employees to negotiate a reasonable representation fee to be charged to non-members of employee organizations; and the Fair Share Act which

authorizes collective bargaining representatives to receive service fees from non-members. This year I introduced a bill to ensure union representatives' access to scheduled employees' orientations.

4. The Fight for \$15. Many municipalities in Maryland and across the country have introduced ordinances that would raise the minimum wage in that jurisdiction to \$15 per hour. Yet legislation was introduced in Annapolis last year to block local counties and the city from raising the minimum wage above the state level. Should the state bar municipalities from raising their own minimum wage? If so, would you sponsor legislation to raise the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour, indexed to inflation?

- Not only have I called for an increase in the minimum wage, but I am leading the fight to pass Maryland's \$15 per hour minimum wage legislation, indexed to inflation, which I introduced this year as well as last year, and which includes the elimination of the tipped workers exclusion. In addition, I led the effort to establish a living wage for state employees and contractors and the successful prior drive to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. I do not believe that the state should block counties and municipalities from raising their own minimum wage. Rather I support and applaud the enactment in Montgomery County of its own legislation in 2017 to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

State service/public employee issues and rights

5. Interest binding arbitration. In 2010 Baltimore County Citizens overwhelmingly agreed that it is important to keep government employees focused on their jobs and not in labor contract disputes (especially Public Safety Employees), so they voted to pass a referendum question supporting interest binding arbitration for all County Employees. Baltimore County employees subsequently won the right to have interest binding arbitration to settle disputes or impasses in contract negotiations but those rights were unnecessarily limited through legislation to wages. According to this process, when during the negotiations process, labor or management declare an impasse and cannot agree to certain provisions of the contract, a neutral, 3rd party professional arbitrator will be called into resolve the dispute. Both the union and management agree that the decision of this arbitrator is binding and final.

Do you support interest binding arbitration for contract negotiations for city, county, state, and federal employees? As an elected official, would you support strengthening those rights for the public employees that fall under your jurisdiction?

- Yes. I support interest binding arbitration for contract negotiations for government employees. As Governor I would support strengthening those rights for state public employees under my jurisdiction. I also strongly support labor management councils which include front line workers in decision making for public agencies.

6. Health Insurance Transparency. Disputes have arisen around employer's self-insured employee healthcare programs. Audits and budget analysis appear to suggest some governments are running for-profit healthcare programs and healthcare surplus funds are being diverted for use in unrelated areas. This clearly suggests that employees are therefore paying much higher than their negotiated healthcare splits for employer self-insured healthcare coverage.

As an elected official, will you sponsor legislation that would force government employers with self-funded insurance programs to be more transparent with actual claim cost, rebates and other refund programs?

- As Governor I will sponsor legislation requiring government employers with self-funded insurance programs to be more transparent with actual claim cost, rebates and other refund programs. Currently Maryland state government has built up such a large balance in our health insurance account that the budget assumes two contributions holidays for the state and its employees.

7. Retirement for state workers: defined benefit versus defined contribution. Last session, legislation was introduced that would move state employees retirement from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan (401K). Do you support such a plan? Why or why not?

- No. I reject defined contribution plans for state employees and have a consistent record of opposing them and am committed to the defined benefit plan. I do not support legislation to move state employees' retirement from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan such as a 401K. I believe that the state should model good labor practices and will oppose misinformation from anti-labor groups that try to scare taxpayers about outstanding pension obligations. I am the best prepared to defend these benefits.

8. Appropriate staffing levels. This past fall, numerous news reports confirmed what many state employees have already known: that staffing levels in a number of state agencies have fallen to levels such that both the safety of the individual workers and the ability of these workers to carry out their duties has been compromised. Recent examples of nurses being assaulted at numerous state hospitals (<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/investigations/bs-md-spring-grove-assaults-20171003-story.html>), or of reports from the Department of Legislative Services to the state's Spending Affordability Committee (<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-state-understaffed-report-20171116-story.html>) speak to this. What more can the state do to assure that Maryland agencies and facilities are appropriately staffed?

- In order for the state of Maryland to provide high quality, effective services to its residents, it must have sufficient personnel and staff. The recent report by the Department of Legislative Services highlights the current serious shortages of employees in Maryland state government -- including significant shortages in the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health and the Department of Juvenile Services -- under the current administration, and the need to fill 1,126 new positions and 1,505 critical vacant positions so that the state can fulfill its critical

missions and goals -- which include ensuring public safety, protecting the environment, providing effective social services and providing quality care for those in need of mental health services. In addition, compensation levels are not competitive with comparable employers. As Governor I would not only fill vacant positions in state government, but would also make efforts to improve our hiring and recruitment process, and provide fair compensation and benefits to public employees so that they are fairly paid and have appropriate incentives to continue employment with state government. I would also ensure that our psychiatric hospitals recruit and retain qualified personnel to serve their patients and that the state comply with outstanding court orders regarding hospital staffing.

Public Education

9. **General:** What do you think are some of the biggest problems facing public education—both in Baltimore City and in the rest of the state—today? If elected, how would you help solve these problems?

- We face a number of significant challenges today in public education in Baltimore and in our state. As we experienced this winter in Baltimore, we need to provide more funding to support our school infrastructure, including heating and water systems, and to provide for adequate and accessible funds for school construction. I promptly proposed practical and innovative short-term and long-term solutions upon learning of the unacceptable lack of heat in our Baltimore schools and the current governor's shameful and inadequate initial reaction to the crisis.

Statewide our current public school system is not prepared for the challenges that lay ahead. When compared to other industrialized countries the United States is lagging in the middle of the pack. This lack of achievement demands new and innovative solutions that prioritize learning over testing, that teaches skills for the future versus those from the past, that recognizes and meets the needs of an economically and socially diverse student population and empowers educators not only with the knowledge necessary to deliver on these solutions, but also the professional respect and dignity more commonly reserved for engineers and doctors.

As you know I am currently a member of the Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education (a.k.a. The Kirwan Commission) and see many ways we can improve the statewide quality of education for our children and for those who deliver education services. Maryland should increase resources to schools, with special emphasis on schools impacted by high concentrations of poverty. For its schools to perform at the level of the best performing systems, Maryland must expand and improve early childhood education; significantly increase support for at-risk students; address funding equity issues; require better preparation and support for teachers; greatly expand the pool and diversity of high quality teachers; enhance the teaching profession with career ladder and compensation levels similar to comparable high-status professionals; significantly increase standards for teacher certification; move College & Career Ready determinations from 11th to 10th grade; develop rigorous college and career pathways that will enable students to graduate from high school with significant college credits (even an Associate's degree) and/or an industry recognized credential; and implement a strong system of accountability.

Over the past two years I have also been a member of the National Council of State Legislators' International Education Study Group. This panel studied education systems around the world. The next Governor of Maryland must understand that our students are not just competing with students from Virginia, Massachusetts and California. They are also competing with those from Shanghai, Alberta and Estonia. The Study Group's report found that the best performing countries in education had the following in common:

- Children arrive at school ready to learn and extra support is given to struggling students.
- A world-class teaching profession provides highly effective teachers to all students.
- A highly effective and rigorous system of career and technical education is available.
- Individual reforms are connected as part of carefully planned and designed comprehensive systems.

These elements should be the guiding principles for our education system.

We must ensure that we provide adequate funds to support these educational goals. A Madaleno Administration budget will reflect the necessary priorities for education and educators. As State Senator I supported state legislation to enhance teacher learning and certification, and as governor I will lead the effort to heighten the professional standing of educators with increased training and skills developments.

My experience as Vice-Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, where I have been integrally involved in crafting funding mechanisms to meet our education goals, will be invaluable as we implement my executive proposals to build a 21st century public school system for Maryland and develop the best means to fund them.

10. Community Schools: Baltimore City now has 51 of its public schools serving as designated community schools. A community school is a public school that partners with some entity (UM-Baltimore or the Baltimore YMCA, just to name a few examples) to provide either after-school academic or social services to both students and members of the community. How can state government work to expand the community school strategy in Baltimore and the rest of Maryland?

- I strongly support the expansion of community schools with wrap around services within the public school system. In fact, I have made it a centerpiece of my campaign and will work to expand the community school strategy in Baltimore and the rest of the state by fully implementing the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission. A child's development doesn't simply depend upon Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. A holistic environment of educators, family, friends and neighbors all play a role in the education of our children. To me the concept of community schools is a logical, efficient and effective means of creating the most nourishing environment possible for our children to learn.

11. Public charter schools and local oversight. There are just over 40 public charter schools in the state of Maryland, and the vast majority of them reside in Baltimore City. The large, out-of-state charter operators would like to weaken state law to make teachers and staff employees of the charter board, rather than employees of Baltimore City Public Schools. This would remove all protections that teachers and staff have under the collective bargaining agreement between the teachers union and the school board. This would also limit oversight of these privately run public schools by taking them out from under the purview of BCPS, as well as giving these charters a “blank check waiver” from any local school board policy. Should charter school teachers and staff be considered employees of the charter school or of the local school board? Should oversight of these schools be weakened?

- Charter school teachers and staff should be considered employees of the local school board and oversight of these schools should not be weakened. It is critical that these employees have the protections of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to BCPS teachers and staff employees. I also believe that it is important to teachers and to student success that the schools remain subject to BCPS oversight and policies. It is my hope and expectation that by fully implementing the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission we can eliminate the need and desire for charter schools.

12. Charter School funding. There has been a long-running dispute between certain charter school operators and Baltimore Public Schools over appropriate funding. As a feature of being a public charter school in Baltimore, the charters are largely given cash—calculated on a per-pupil basis—from the district, in lieu of the services that the central administration provides neighborhood schools. Most recently, the system presented a per pupil funding formula that mandated funds intended for students living in poverty or who are English language learners actually receive those funds. Some charter operators have countered with a lawsuit, arguing that those special funds for high-poverty students or ESOL be distributed to every student equally, regardless of need. How do you think BCPS should calculate its charter school per pupil funding model?

- I vehemently oppose for-profit schools. Too many charters are used as vehicles to enrich a few people willing to scam the public education system. We need a reimbursement system that holds each charter school accountable for the funding they receive and ensures targeted funds reach their intended students. It is critical that we ensure that children living in poverty or who are English language learners who attend charter schools actually receive and benefit from public funds. BCPS should continue to calculate its charter school per pupil funding model in a manner that achieves this result.

13. School vouchers. Should government give out vouchers (either a tax credit, or even a tax rebate) to parents who want to send their children to a private school? Please explain your answer.

- Whether it's BOOST or BOAST, I have consistently voted against and spoken out against public vouchers for private schools. And to be clear, I oppose the use of public dollars for any private schools, including for-profit charter schools. I have spoken out against the current Governor's

prior budget proposals to fund private schools with public monies and this year again reiterated my strong opposition to his proposed public funding of private schools. I am the only person running for Governor with a consistent voting record against these measures.

14. Education Funding, state contribution. The state is currently studying revisions to the formula that determines the amount of aid given to a local school system from Annapolis. Over the past few decades, the number of Maryland public school students living in poverty has more than doubled, going from 22% in 1990 to 45% statewide today. In Baltimore City alone, well over 90% of our public school students live in poverty. What can the state—and the funding formula—do in order to be sure these students living in poverty get the best education we can give them? If the answer is more funding for public schools, from where is that money to come?

- As affirmed by the draft recommendations issued by the Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) on which I serve, it is critical to provide adequate funds to support our educational goals of improving the statewide quality of education for our children and those who deliver education services. To be sure students living in poverty get the best possible education, Maryland needs to increase resources to schools, with special emphasis on schools impacted by high concentrations of poverty. We need to continue to support and expand pre-kindergarten programs as well as community schools with integrated wrap around services. We need to expand our career and technical education. We also need to enhance our efforts towards those with special needs, increase our efforts to recruit high quality teachers and pay them accordingly, and ensure that students are getting their nutritional needs met, wherever they live.

I helped craft, implement and protect Maryland's landmark "Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act" public school funding plan. I did this first as a policy advocate for the Montgomery County public schools, and then as a member of the General Assembly. After Larry Hogan on this third day in office proposed cutting Maryland's education budget by more than a billion dollars, I led the successful effort to put funds back into education.

A Madaleno administration budget will reflect the necessary prioritization of education and educators. As Vice-Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, I have been integrally involved in crafting the funding mechanisms needed to meet our education goals. I bring this high level of experience to crafting my executive proposals for building a 21st century public schools system for Maryland and implementing mechanisms to fund them. I have led the effort to close corporate loopholes during my time in the legislature, and I would use the power of the governor's office to fight for initiatives to fix our outdated corporate tax structure and to end the tax break for out-of-state-retailers. And my legislation to legalize marijuana in the last session proposed dedicating 50% of revenues to community schools in low-income districts, as those neighborhoods have been most ravaged by the failed war on drugs. In response to the Republican's federal tax scam legislation, I will lead efforts to ensure our state retains a robust, progressive tax structure. We commit to dedicating the critical, necessary funds and resources to build a successful, innovative 21st century public school system for Maryland.

This year I proposed that we enact legislation to address the obstacles and inadequacies in funding to solve the BCPS heating crisis. I have proposed a multi-pronged approach which includes using monies from the Catastrophic Event Fund (a proposal ultimately adopted by the Governor after unfortunate delay), legislation to give BCPS more power and flexibility to target funding to priority needs, creating a new approach for school construction projects, and maximizing the use of existing resources to invest in capital projects -- which have not been used by the Hogan administration. I have also recently introduced emergency legislation to ensure that the \$5 million in the current year's budget for air conditioning may be used at the discretion of the Baltimore Public Schools System for heating and ventilation as well as air conditioning. I will work to expedite approval of this bill so that these funds can be immediately available for BCPS to use to address these needs.

15. Education funding, local contribution. For the past three years in a row, the Baltimore City Public Schools System had dealt with a reduction in state aid to its schools. Some in Annapolis have argued that the city should be contributing more to public schools, as property values (especially in and around the Inner Harbor area) have rapidly increased. Do you agree with this assessment?

- I do not agree with the reduction in state aid to the Baltimore City Public School System. I have led efforts to find additional revenues for BCPS. Last year, I fought until the end of session to find additional funds to close the BCPS deficit. This year's budget proposal includes funds to ensure that state support for BCPS does not decline due to decreasing enrollment. Working with the city leadership I will find a solution to the calculation of the city's wealth with respect to tax increment financing deals and payments-in-lieu-of taxes.

16. School Staffing. Due to a lack of funding, a number of specialized services our students need are being staffed by employees who are not trained properly to administer those services. For example, due to the limited number of certified nurses in Baltimore City Public Schools, administrators and/or staff are forced to administer medication to students, share nurses between multiple school locations, and utilize part-time nurses. And in other cases, students who have experienced extremely traumatic events do not have access to social workers trained to help them through these times. How would you help solve this staffing crisis?

- As part of our plan to provide adequate funding to schools throughout the state, it is critical to look to the needs and resources of each of our school districts. We need to provide funding to assure that we have sufficient educators and trained personnel to provide high quality services to all students. These needs include providing sufficient certified nurses and social workers to provide necessary services to children in all school districts, with a special focus on districts such as BCPS that have identified the need for staffing to serve their students' needs. We must provide more resources and services for children at risk of failure, including expanded wraparound social services for at-risk students and their families, more intensive supports for students who are struggling, including additional learning opportunities, and access to other professionals in school to provide assistance with a student's social and emotional well-being.

17. Violence and trauma in the city schools. Far too often, children in the Baltimore City public school system witness very traumatizing events, and indeed may also be victims to those events—either in the classrooms or outside the walls of the schools after the dismissal bell has rung. What do you think is the best strategy to assure that our school buildings are safe and welcoming environments for children, teachers, and other education professionals in Baltimore City? How can we work to minimize the impact of traumatizing events on our school children?

- I support developing and providing support for the implementation of trauma informed education. Just as many other states have passed laws and resolutions to implement trauma informed education, we need to provide the necessary trauma-related services in Maryland to assist schools to create safe and supportive learning environments that improve educational outcomes for students, including staffing schools with social workers and counselors who can assist students who have experienced trauma or have other mental health needs or concerns.

Schools must be a safe and welcoming place for our children. I sponsored the Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017 and the Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens Act which were enacted to ensure that students' nutritional needs are met in Baltimore public schools and that other eligible students receive free breakfast and lunch, an approach demonstrated to be essential to students' readiness to learn. Other steps I have taken to make our kids safe in / on the way to our schools and on our college campuses include co-sponsoring legislation to prohibit carrying firearms on public college campuses and to prohibit deadly weapons on public or private school property. I will continue to work to prevent firearms or deadly weapons on school property.

And we must continue to support community schools that provide important services and support to our children and make our schools more welcoming environments for students. These schools have been very effective for our students and deserve additional state funding and investment, as an important part of our strategy to make schools safe, nurturing and supportive and to minimize the impacts of difficult experiences on our children.

Vision for Baltimore Metropolitan Area and Maryland in General

18. Transportation. When Governor Hogan cancelled the Red Line rail project, he replaced it with a revision of the MTA regional bus lines and renamed the system the Baltimore Link. How effective do you believe this new bus plan has been? How can the state improve the transportation needs of Baltimore's citizens?

- I have long supported the Red Line rail transit project to improve transit in Baltimore and the state's application to receive federal New Starts funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for that project. Unfortunately, Governor Hogan's abrupt cancellation of the Red Line and his withdrawal of the application for federal funding means that the Red Line is no longer in line to receive critical federal funds to build it. As governor I would ask my Department of Transportation to seek to revive the Red Line and determine the most feasible and expeditious means of securing federal and state funding.

While the MTA regional bus line has been revised and renamed as the Baltimore Link, it does not provide sufficient transportation routes for Baltimore residents and does not adequately serve the transportation needs for Baltimore that would have been served by the Red Line. I

would immediately work to revive the Red Line and more effectively serve the transportation needs of Baltimore's residents.

In order to provide sensible solutions to our transportation needs, as governor I will lead an effort to create a series of regional transportation entities to plan, build, and maintain multi-modal transportation and to manage the revenues generated within each region. This approach would provide greater local control over transportation projects like the Red Line and would reduce the volatility created by statewide elections.

19. Privatization. Many rumors have been circulating that the city has been looking into privatizing water services. This comes at a time when the Maryland has been quietly attempting to privatize a number of state services—like closing many state hospitals or turning them over to private companies. When, if ever, do you feel it is appropriate to privatize public services or to sell off or privatize city-owned resources?

- As a legislator I have repeatedly opposed privatization, and have argued for public employees to be able to compete for services on equal and fair footing. As Governor I will invest in the public workforce and engage public employees who will bring best practices and efficiencies forward. I will appoint government leaders with my directive to them to work hand in hand with frontline employees to improve services for Marylanders.

20. State's opioid crisis. This summer, Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency in Maryland in response to the opioid crisis, calling it a "rapidly escalating" threat. Yet, even as opioid overdoses and death rates continue to climb, the state is actively de-funding, privatizing, or, as in the case of several Maryland health departments, actively shutting down numerous institutions designed to treat this crisis. What can you do as a legislator to ensure Maryland gives its citizens' safe and affordable access to additional resources?

- Finding solutions to and preventing the spread of the opioid epidemic in Maryland -- a problem that persists in the lives of many Marylanders -- requires a multi-faceted approach. We need to provide and make available effective treatment for patients and those suffering from addiction, and find a long-term approach to stemming this crisis. I have opposed and will continue to oppose defunding of and privatization of Maryland health departments and will work as Vice Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to provide adequate funding for safe, accessible and affordable facilities for addiction treatment and recovery.

I will also propose a new focused program which targets both prevention and treatment for the opioid crisis. The policies that I support to affect this critical relief are the following:

- Mandating medical profession and student education and training on i) non-opioid treatment and management of pain, ii) identification of substance use disorders, including how to detect opioid abuse, and iii) options to secure assistance for patients.
- Further restricting the prescribing of opioids for treatment of pain, subject to certain exceptions, such as for cancer, end of life and palliative care.

- Enhanced monitoring of data reported through the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) in Maryland to detect potential patterns of abuse or aberrant prescribing practices so that action can be taken to address those cases.
- Creating and naming a Director of Recovery to ensure a fully coordinated and comprehensive treatment and recovery support system.
- Creating sufficient Outreach Teams and Recovery Residences in local communities.
- Providing for sufficient Certified Peer Recovery Specialists to support patients and assist with connections to housing, transportation and employment prospects.
- Ensuring that medication assisted treatment (MAT) and other necessary long-term treatment, including mental health treatment, is available for those suffering from addiction, whether in the emergency room or in a prison.
- Ensuring that upon release from prison individuals are able to continue with treatment through prompt presumptive eligibility for Medicaid and connection to community-based treatment.
- Enforcing mental health parity laws to ensure coverage for preventive services and addiction disorder treatment.
- Ensuring that there are sufficient safe, affordable and accessible facilities to provide addiction treatment and recovery services.

21. **Earned Sick Leave.** In the 2017 session, the state legislature passed a bill greatly expanding the requirement that employers provide earned sick leave to their employees, but Governor Hogan vetoed this bill. Do you support the legislative effort to override the governor's veto on paid sick leave?

- Yes. I fully supported and worked hard to pass the bill to provide earned sick leave to Maryland workers, and I voted to override the governor's veto. I am the only candidate for Governor who worked on and voted for this legislation. The law not only benefits those who come down with an illness or injury, it also benefits those who are caring for loved ones, be they very young or old, disabled or impacted by addiction or mental illness.