

IBBMD Questions for Candidates

What PACS do or will you accept and reject support from and why?

I have refused all corporate PAC money, and I always will. As long as politicians rely on billionaires and corporate PACs for support, Congress will not be able to produce the effective policy the American people deserve. I was proud to receive the endorsements of End Citizens United PAC and the Working Families Party. The only special interests I will ever consider are the interests of the 5th district and the Americans across the country. I will fight for a Congress whose policy reflects the priorities of everyday hardworking people.

What is your stance on support to Israel?

While I support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish homeland, I stand against the policies and actions of the Netanyahu administration, both from a moral perspective and from the perspective of American national interest. In Congress, I will advocate strongly for Palestinian civilians and fight for humanitarian aid. I am against Netanyahu's settlement expansion, annexation, and enforcement occupation. I believe that such criticism is important to Israel's long term health as a democracy and American ally.

Why did you decide to run for office?

I am running for office because Maryland needs a fighter, and I am the right person for this moment. I have dedicated my life to protecting others, from defending the U.S. Capitol on January 6 to taking on the Trump Administration's dangerous 1.8 billion-dollar slush fund. I was born on Andrews Air Force Base and raised in Prince George's County, where my parents taught me the values of duty, honor, and community. That's why I became a Capitol Police Officer for over 15 years. And that's why on January 6, 2021, I defended our nation's Capitol from a violent insurrection bent on destroying our democracy because for me, doing the right thing is a way of life. Since then, I have taken the fight to President Trump. I've been on the campaign trail with Kamala and in the courts with my lawsuit, working toward a better future for Marylanders. I will be the most effective representative of the 5th Congressional District because I will bring the same battle to Congress, making sure our economy works for everyone, holding Trump and his billionaire cronies accountable, and keeping special interests out of politics.

What do you think is the biggest issue facing the average American?

In addition to the rising cost of living and housing, the biggest issue facing the average American is the threat of losing our democracy and representation. In recent years, we have seen numerous attempts to weaken our democratic institutions. Attacks on voting rights, intimidation of elected and election officials, corporate and foreign influence and the rampant abuse of powers under Donald Trump have all shown why it is so important that we elect leaders to Congress who understand that our American way of life will not survive if we do not stand up to protect and strengthen our democracy. In Congress, I will co-sponsor the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act on my first day in Congress, and I will also support the Freedom to Vote Act. I will stand up against election intimidation, supporting both the Election Worker Protection Act, and the Protecting Against Election Subversion Act. I am the grandson of an election poll worker, the son of a veteran, and a lifelong public servant. On January 6th, I held the line and stood against threats to Congress, to the U.S. Capitol, and to our democracy. As your Congressman, I will continue to work to protect our democratic institutions and the opportunities for all Americans to make their voices heard.

What is your plan to address the rising cost of living and housing?

We need an economy that works for everyone. All Americans deserve to be financially secure and share in the success of our nation. That's why in Congress, I will fight for tax cuts for the middle class, restore the Child Tax Credit, and raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour so that working families don't have to decide between dinner and their bills. I will make sure the wealthy pay their fair share, closing corporate tax loopholes and eliminating the income cap for Social Security. I will also expand federal investment in affordable housing by increasing support for construction, preservation, and rental assistance, ensuring that every family has access to safe, stable, and reasonably priced homes in their community.

What environmental issue is the most concerning for you?

The environmental issue that is more concerning for me is the clear rejection of the environment as a priority by MAGA millionaires. Climate change is an existential threat to our planet, and we must take urgent action to combat it. I will stand against big corporations who prioritize their bottom line over the future of our planet. Here in Maryland, I oppose the construction of massive data centers that hurt our environment, including our beautiful Chesapeake Bay. I do not take any corporate PAC money, I am not in the pockets of the billionaires and CEOs, and I will stand up for our environment.

How will you support green energy?

Investing in clean technology and green energy is the right thing to do, and it will save money while creating good-paying union jobs for Americans across the country. In Congress, I will do everything in my power to ensure that the earth is liveable for future generations. I will rout out the institutional climate denial that Republicans have baked into US policy, and I will address the utility affordability crisis caused by President Trump's attack on clean energy and misadventure in Iran. I will advance environmental justice by restoring climate-friendly energy tax credits repealed by this administration, improving the permitting process for new clean energy projects, and holding corporate polluters accountable.

What is your stance and approach to universal health care?

I believe healthcare is a human right, and I will fight to achieve that right in Congress. There are too many developed countries that are healthier than us while spending far less, and we should be able to accomplish the same. To fix this issue in Congress, I will support Medicare for All, fight to reduce the prices of prescription drugs, and protect and expand the Affordable Care Act. I will also proudly support the Maryland Total Cost of Care Model so that everyone is receiving equal care in quality and affordability.

Which committee would you like to serve and how do you envision that supporting your district?

I would like to serve on the Oversight Committee, where I will stand up for accountability on behalf of the Marylanders. When I am elected to Congress, we will have two more years of a Trump presidency. This danger is a reminder that we don't only need to elect Democrats – we need to elect the right Democrats, willing to call out the injustice perpetrated by the Trump Administration on everyday Americans. On the Oversight Committee, I will use subpoena power and the visibility of the Committee to drive the discourse in Washington towards the issues that matter most to Marylanders.

What is your stance on big business integration with the government and how do you intend to address it?

I am seriously concerned by the increasing level of integration between big business and the government. As huge private corporations get closer to the government, we are all put at risk, from the dangers of private data being shared to companies, to the growth of monopolies in the economy, to the consolidation of political influence in the one percent. In Congress, I will use my position on the Oversight Committee to hold lawmakers accountable to their constituents, protecting the American people against the influence of big business MAGA millionaires.

What is your relationship with unions and intent towards supporting them?

I believe that strong unions are essential to the healthy function of an American economy that works for all people. In Congress, I will support the Protect America's Workforce Act to restore federal workers' union rights for the nearly 1 million federal workers President Trump has stripped of the right to collectively bargain. Additionally, the Fifth District is home to over 75,000 federal workers. I will advocate for stricter oversight in the management of the federal workforce, requiring proper justification and impact analysis for workforce reductions.

What is your stance on addressing the rising national debt?

Rising national debt puts everyday Americans at risk for higher interest rates and inflation. This is unsustainable, and lawmakers must work towards a more balanced budget through policy. In Congress, I will address this issue by supporting legislation that makes the wealthy pay their fair share, from closing corporate tax loopholes to eliminating the income cap for Social Security.

Do you see grassroots organizations as helpful, harmful, or neutral? Why?

I am a strong supporter of grassroots organizations. In a world where power and influence consolidated more than ever, we need grassroots organizations like Indivisible to support the voices of everyday Americans who want change and a system that works for them and represents their interests. Well-run grassroots organizations will be key to the major political victories I hope to see in the coming years.