

IBBMD Questions for Candidates

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

I will not take money from any PAC. This campaign is grassroots only. Every dollar a candidate takes is a promise, and promises should only be made to the people, not PACs of any kind. I am a strong supporter of overturning Citizens United. If we don't get money out of politics, we will never have any real say. If I take PAC money or corporate money to win, then I'm no better than what I'm fighting against.

The hard part is being heard over the money. When a PAC can spend millions to flood your district with mailers, ads, and paid canvassers in a matter of days, a grassroots campaign has to fight for every single moment of attention. The algorithm buries you. The press covers the fundraising totals. The party sends its energy where the money already is (money that got there because they picked their winner long before the race began). You can have the right message, be the right candidate, have the right community behind you, and still get drowned out by a donation deposited five minutes ago.

I watched how this works volunteering for Andrew Yang in Iowa. A key policy in his campaign was getting money out of politics, and he practiced what he preached. The average donation to his campaign was \$30. Ninety-nine percent of donations under \$200. Hundreds of thousands of regular people putting in what they could. He was running on the idea that the people should be the voice in their own government.

And the system that profits from money in politics buried him with it. MSNBC left him off their own polling graphics fifteen times. At a debate they hosted, he went 32 minutes without a single question. The DNC refused to commission the polls that would have kept him on the stage. The man campaigning to take money out of politics got silenced by the people who benefit most from keeping it in. That's how the corruption works. It decides who you're allowed to hear from before you ever get to vote. And that's the part we have to fight to get in and tear it all down.

2. What is your stance on support to Israel?

I do not support Israel. I do not support genocide or colonization. I do not support sending money to Israel. I do not support sending weapons to Israel or using our weapons to support Israel. I do not support being involved with Israel in any way, unless that way ends their ability to kill. We've given Israel over \$330 billion in direct military aid, plus untold billions more in weapons transfers, deployments, and operational support, to murder people. Meanwhile, our government is killing it's own people by not providing us with even the very basics for survival.

I do not support Israel owning our government.

So far, in this race, AIPAC's super PAC has spent over \$1.2 million boosting Adrian Bofo, the establishment's pick. And that's just what we know. We can look to Chicago for an example of them creating shell PACs, specifically "Affordable Chicago Now" and "Elect Chicago Women," to attack candidates. Members of Congress don't often speak out against AIPAC because it raises their chance, significantly, of losing their seat the following election (and they support genocide). Our government's foreign policy is bought and paid for by Israel.

What I do support is ending Israel's ability to take over land and resources, and kill people in every country they can reach. We are all at fault, even as we fight against it, for everything Israel does, until we've put an end to our own government's eagerness to help. WE are also committing genocide with every dollar spent for Israel. Every taxpayer is paying for death, regardless if we agree to it, or not.

Arms embargo. End all monetary aid. Sanctions on EVERYTHING. Overturn Citizens United.

3. Why did you decide to run for office?

I've spent years rallying communities, working in, and alongside nonprofits, getting dirty; I'll jump in when most won't. I've been here, doing the work. I've attended town halls, held electeds to their promises, and called out the racism in our local government.

For the past year, I've been in DC, where the federal work happens. I sat in Congressional hearings for months, making sure the people who couldn't devote that kind of time knew what was really happening. We did everything we could to hold the floodgates of the Big Beautiful Bill for Billionaires shut. Unfortunately, they opened, we're working even harder to keep people from drowning.

As federal job losses hit our communities, I pushed our elected officials, at every level, to act, to fight, to protect our people and our economy. It was met with little action. Steny Hoyer's own response was to "help your neighbors get their kids on the bus", when our neighbors need help paying their mortgages. I'll never understand why they had no plans for something we all saw coming.

I stood with the 24/7 veteran protest at Union Station. I could be found at Immigration Headquarters or the Heritage Foundation, not giving that evil a moment of peace. I marched, shutting down streets, unpermitted, against Israel's wars, and ICE and police brutality. During the State of Emergency, I walked the streets of our Nation's Capital at night, alone, keeping eyes on what was happening to this country. It's worse than most understand

When a nation loses its Capital, it lost the war.

At home, I built an ICE Rapid Response Team to protect our neighbors from federal agents being used as military on our streets.

I've I looked around for the other candidates in this race, and they weren't there.

They never are.

They aren't even part of our local Rapid Response Team, despite attempts to have them join.

I have a clear record of showing up. I've never needed the establishment's blessing, or pounds of PAC money to pretend I have. I've spent years doing work they don't bother with, even when it's inconvenient, frightening, or just uncomfortable.

MAGA isn't going to be stopped by some establishment Democrat who plays nice in Washington. They're going to be stopped by someone who's been out here fighting, who knows the risks because I've lived them, and isn't afraid to take them on.

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

The biggest problem Americans face is America.

Every issue is connected. Healthcare bankrupts families because insurance companies are allowed to profit off our suffering. We can't afford to buy a home because Amazon bought the inventory. Federal workers lost their jobs because Trump is greedy, and AI is coming for the ones that are left because Big Tech has a hell of a lobbying budget that buys votes from our congressional representatives that should be voting for us. Black and brown communities are over-policed because the system has always been about slavery, control and profits. It will remain that way until we stop refusing to hold the people responsible for that hate accountable. Israel kills with our weapons because AIPAC & Friends owns Congress. The climate is collapsing because Congress profits from the industries that destroy it.

The biggest problem Americans are facing is that America is working exactly as it was designed to. The same people have always run this country: white, wealthy, landowning men of “good character” who built the system to serve themselves and have spent generations protecting it.

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

There are plenty of ways to make life affordable. I don't like the idea of just housing or simply cost of living being the focus. I'm against the idea of a “working class” and don't believe a “living wage” is all we should be reaching for. We all deserve to do more than just live. We have one shot here, so far as we know, and money shouldn't stop us from enjoying it. Especially when there are 20 billionaires in the DMV alone.

Free healthcare, and delete any medical debt. That saves the average person at least \$10,000 a year, and wipes out the \$220 billion in medical debt over 100 million Americans are drowning under.

Make education free - however much or little you want - and eliminate any student loans. Marylanders carry the highest average student loan debt in the country at \$45,173 per borrower.

Toss out tariffs. They're just another tax on us, that does nothing helpful, but does raise the price of everything we buy. Saves families an estimated \$2,400 to \$3,800 a year.

Fine any company, and their executives and board of directors, for raising costs or posting profit margins over a certain percentage. The corporate price-gouging from 2020 hasn't stopped, because why would it without accountability?

Tax corporate ownership of single-family homes out of existence, while capping rent increases. Fully fund Section 8 vouchers so they actually cover market rents. Fund grants, not loans, for first-time buyers, low-income families, senior citizens, disabled buyers, and multi-generational households.

Make childcare free. Families currently spend an average of 20% of their household income on childcare, sometimes more than they pay in rent. For a Maryland family earning minimum wage, infant childcare alone costs 80% of their annual income.

Cap credit card interest rates at 10%, and lower current debt accordingly. The average rate today is 21.52%, and big banks borrow at less than 4.5% from the Federal Reserve. A 10% cap saves Americans \$100 billion a year.

End overdraft fees. Banks made \$5 billion off them last year, mostly from people who couldn't afford a \$30 fee in the first place. 34% of households making less than \$65,000 get hit. Only 10% of households making over \$175,000 do.

Make public transit free, and invest in it. Transit agencies recover only 15-25% of operating costs from fares anyway. Transportation is the biggest source of US carbon pollution, and free transit cuts that. It also saves families an average of \$11,000 per year.

6. What environmental issue is the most concerning for you?

The fossil fuel industry.

They've known since the 70s that what they were doing would wreck the planet.

The atmosphere itself has been altered by the fossil fuel industry. CO2 has seen a 51% jump; half of every ton of CO2 humans have ever emitted has been released in the last 35 years. Most

of that increase is from burning fossil fuels. The carbon they burn carries a chemical fingerprint we can easily observe.

The planet is warming at a rate not experienced in millions of years, accelerating at nearly half a degree per decade. We're talking 40 to 100 times faster than the natural warming that ended the ice age. The ten hottest years on record? All of them since 2014.

Our oceans are dying, they're draining our water, our air is now a poison that kills 8 million people a year.

All while six oil companies are on track to make \$2,967, every single second, in profit this year. That's \$94 billion. Yes, with a war in Iran, and our pockets empty. Imagine what they can spend buying Congress and the President.

7. How will you support green energy?

The fossil fuel subsidies? Now it's solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and next-generation nuclear subsidies. Fast-track permitting for clean energy, and fund it publicly so the people, not the utilities, own the benefit.

8. What is your stance and approach to universal health care?

Being alive is a right, not a decision made by a CEO. We need to end private insurance companies and have free healthcare for all of us, by any name you want to call it. Dental, vision, mental health, reproductive, gender-affirming, cosmetic care—any care you need or want is included. We already spend more than any country on earth and still make people ration care and die. The money is already there, we just need to move it around.

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

An answer that should shock no one: the House Oversight Committee is where I can fight the hardest, and inflict the most damage to the government agencies that come for us. It's the committee built for accountability, with the power to investigate, to demand answers, and to force the people in power to walk up to a microphone and say out loud all the damage they've caused, in public and under oath. I've been doing this, from out here, for years.

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

I will never support it. When public turns private, it stops being about serving us and becomes about making a profit. The clearest example is the private prison industry. Corporations pull in over \$2 billion in revenue with slaves, disproportionately Black men, who are targeted on the streets, locked up, and their bodies are used for profit.

Big Tech companies are being handed our most sensitive government data, right now. They're building surveillance and targeting systems, using incapable AI to make determinations about each of us, adding us to lists, keeping track of our income, turning more of our into a private profit.

I'll ban the privatization of any public functions. I'll shut down private prisons. I'll work to amend the Constitution to take slavery completely out, no exceptions. I'll require the government to build and operate its own data infrastructure instead of handing it to tech companies. Ban private corporations from holding sensitive government data on the public.

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

I'm pro-union. Workers have the right to organize, bargain, and strike. So many people died for this. In 1909, the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union struck for shorter hours, raises, and safer conditions, including unlocked doors and fire escapes. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory owners refused. Two years later, 146 workers burned to death in that factory because the exit doors were locked to prevent breaks.

In 1886, workers rallied in Chicago's Haymarket Square, fighting for the eight-hour workday. Police showed up, an unknown bomb went off, and police opened fire. Seven officers and up to

eight workers died. It later came out that some of those officers were killed by other officers' bullets. So, they arrested labor organizers, tried them on no evidence, and hanged them. Before he was executed, August Spies said, "The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today." We got the eight-hour day, overtime pay, the end of child labor, workplace safety laws, and better wages and so much more, all because of unions. Spies was right.

I'll always defend the right to organize, and I'd like to see more, in both the growth of new unions, and the fight to make work less of a priority in our lives. It's possible, and I'll help.

12. What is your stance on addressing the rising national debt?

My approach starts with being honest about how we got here. Our debt didn't hit \$36 trillion because we spent too much on safety nets for our people. It got this high because Congress keeps handing out tax cuts to billionaires, writing blank checks to defense contractors, and protecting industries that don't need our help. The Big Beautiful Bill for Billionaires only raises our debt, by trillions, over the next ten years. The cuts to Snap, Medicaid, ACA Subsidies? All for hate.

The fix? Cut the bloated defense budget that hands hundreds of billions to five contractors every year while audits keep failing. Forget Israel. End corporate subsidies for industries posting record profit and close the carried interest loophole. No more tax breaks for private jets, yachts, and luxury real estate, that Republicans just made permanent, at a cost of \$362 billion over ten years. A real wealth tax on net worth over \$50 million. Closing the loopholes that let multinational corporations book profits offshore. Ending the revolving door that turns public service into private payday.

Long-term sustainability means cutting the corruption, not the safety net.

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

Grassroots organizations aren't helpful, harmful, or neutral. They're necessary. They're the only way we've changed anything. They're why we keep moving forward.

They're the people who show up when the system fights us. When a family is about to lose their home, when a neighbor is getting kidnapped off the street by federal agents, when nobody in power is even pretending to care, it's a grassroots organization that fills the gap. I've built them. I've run them. I've benefited from them. I've gone to other areas to learn how they run theirs.

They matter because they are the community helping the same community. They run on time and trust. That is exactly what makes them powerful, and it's what makes the people in power fight so hard against them. There's nothing as powerful as community.

That's why they're necessary. When everything else fails, grassroots organizations are what's left, standing between a community and the forces coming for it. They are the proof that ordinary people, organized and refusing to look away, are still the most powerful thing in this country.