

1. Baltimore City has 30,000+ vacant homes. Do you have additional ideas for cleaning up the blight that isn't a rehash or continuation of previous plans? And how do you propose to pay for your plan?

**Baltimore's large number of vacant houses depresses home prices and invites criminal activity. The State and the City should underwrite the demolition of these properties and their replacement with a solution supported by the affected communities.**

**These communities must drive the decision making process in each of their neighborhoods. What is right for one community will not always be right for another. The State and the City must prioritize these efforts within existing resources.**

2. The two fastest-growing income groups in Baltimore are those who earn \$75,000 and up, and those who earn \$25,000 and below. Middle-income families, who earn approximately \$41,000, are struggling to afford rental housing. How do you propose to keep median-income renters from leaving the city without pushing them into homeownership they may not want or be able to afford?

**One of the biggest pressures on middle income families is the cost of utilities. Often rental units in this income range are not equipped with the latest in energy and water efficient technologies because the landlord is unable to recoup the value of these investments directly.**

**I would support legislation to provide grants or tax benefits to landlords to retrofit rental units within a certain fair market value range with energy efficient windows, appliances, and showerheads/toilets. This would help alleviate the high cost of utilities that are a significant portion of middle income families' monthly budgets.**

3. How do you plan to address lead paint poisoning in our city, a problem that has a disparate impact on low-income Black families?

**I have devoted much of my legislative career to eliminating the scourge of lead poisoning in our city. The rate of lead poisoning in Maryland has declined dramatically because of the efforts of a broad coalition, of which I am proud to be a member.**

**This session I sponsored House Bill 852, which would reform eviction court proceedings to prevent landlords from evicting a tenant if they have not met the requirement to register their property as a lead-affected property. Additionally, the bill would allow tenants to raise the issue of whether or not a property is lead affected during the eviction process.**

4. Is there anything else voters should know about your approach to affordable and safe housing?

**My first job was as the first Director of the Section 8 Existing Housing Program for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. As a consequence, affordable and safe housing has been**

**a priority of my legislative career. Most recently, I worked to protect the residents in the buildings being converted to private ownership under the RAD program.**

**The principles that have guided my approach to housing issues are those enunciated by Hubert Humphrey in his last public address: “The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”**