

Maryland GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE [RICHARD S. MADALENO](#)
Response to C-PAC QUESTIONS FOR Maryland's GUBERNATORIAL
CANDIDATES

Please return responses by Thursday, April 12, 2018

1. Are there any comprehensive immigration reform legislative or policy proposals which you support that would strengthen the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in Maryland, absent any action by the Federal Government?

I was a co-sponsor and active champion of the Trust Act and continue to support it. To address threats from the Trump Administration, I inserted a provision in the state budget to allow the governor to backfill any federal funds that are denied to local public safety agencies because of this issue. I am the only person in this race to put their name "on-the-record" in support. People should not be arrested or detained to determine their immigration or citizenship status. State and local law enforcement should not be responsible for immigration enforcement. To do so weakens the trust and confidence the immigrant community has in local authorities.

As both a delegate and a senator, I worked to enact Maryland's DREAM Act and helped defend the measure when it was petitioned to referendum. Since our DREAM Act requires eligible students who reside in Maryland but do not have evidence of immigration status to first attend a Maryland community college, I initiated the Attorney General's Opinion to clarify that DACA was to be considered as a qualifying immigration status. The DREAM Act has provided an opportunity for Maryland students to pursue the American Dream and has only served to strengthen our state. I support the family reunification provisions in our federal immigration laws and oppose the President's recent proposals to eliminate these programs. I will protect rights for immigrant workers and favor full enforcement of the provisions of our laws that prohibit discrimination based on citizenship and national origin.

I will speak out loudly and aggressively against the Trump Administration's policies to scapegoat and target immigrants, including Caribbean immigrants. I will use the governor's bully pulpit to inform and educate the people of Maryland about the immigrant experience past and present.

2. What is your position regarding the DACCA situation?

I fully support and am a vocal advocate for federal immigration reform and relief, including a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, rights for immigrant workers, family unification and relief for those that have had their Temporary Protected Status and DACA status cancelled or threatened with cancellation. I fully support legislation introduced by Sen. Ben Cardin and Sen. Chris Van Hollen (the Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and

In Emergency [SECURE] Act) which would allow qualified Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients to apply for legal permanent residency. I also fully support and will work closely with our delegation to push forward and pass the federal DREAM Act to provide a pathway to lawful status for Dreamers who have DACA protection.

3. The State of Maryland is now more diverse than it was in the past. What will be your policies to ensure that first responders i.e.—the police, mobile crisis team, EMS and firefighters - are culturally competent to interact with this diverse population?

It is critical that all of our first responders have training in cultural competency so that they can effectively, safely and sensitively interact with the diverse population of Maryland. As Governor I will set the tone at the top for inclusiveness and will appoint a diverse set of Marylanders to the various state boards, commissions and agencies. I will issue policies to protect against discrimination and I will make sure that we provide resources for training our first responders so that they are well prepared and culturally competent to interact with all members of the diverse population in our state.

4. The Caribbean is a strong trading partner of the U.S., and there are opportunities to create economic benefits for both the State of Maryland and Caribbean residents. Will you support strengthening business, social and cultural relations and exchanges between Maryland residents and the Caribbean, and if so how?

I support strengthening business, social and cultural relations and exchanges between Maryland residents and our neighbors in the Caribbean. As governor I would explore the development of cultural relations through the expansion and development of a sister cities program with the Caribbean and would invite proposals and ideas on additional ways to strengthen relations and exchanges between Maryland residents and the Caribbean.

5. How will you improve and maintain regular outreach and communication with your Caribbean constituents throughout your term?

I will seek to build up our state by engaging all voices and all communities. I will reach out to the many diverse ethnic and immigrant groups and advocacy organizations to develop a strong and united vision for the future. As I have done as a legislator, I will ensure state government engages all communities in our state. I will appoint a diverse set of Marylanders to state positions, boards, and commissions.

My Lt Governor candidate, Luwanda Jenkins, a native Baltimorean with an extensive background and track record of state experience and results-driven accomplishments on behalf

of Marylanders, especially the small, women and minority business community, served under Governor's Schaefer, Glendening and O'Malley as Special Secretary for the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs and advanced the state's minority business efforts.

With me as governor and Luwanda as Lieutenant Governor, the entire immigrant community will have friends and allies to depend upon during these dark and difficult times.

6. The Affordable Care Act is under attack by the Federal Government. What will your government do in light of this to provide healthcare to Maryland's most vulnerable Residents?

I believe that healthcare is a human right. I will be the strong leader Maryland needs to ensure that all Marylanders have broad access to affordable, high-quality health care. I fully support this year's initiative to provide a temporary reinsurance program to help cover the most expensive claims from people insured on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to stabilize health insurance rates now. Building on my legislative successes in improving Maryland's health care system and given the Republican repeal of the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act, I strongly support a new health insurance down payment plan for uninsured Marylanders to provide coverage and to keep premiums affordable. I provided leadership for this year's bill to make prescription drugs affordable and to prevent price gouging by brand name drug companies in Maryland. Given generic drug companies' significant price increases for critical generic drugs, I fought for the 2017 law which prohibits price gouging by manufacturers or wholesale distributors in the sale of essential generic drugs in Maryland. I also worked to enact a law to provide Rx payment assistance to the elderly.

When the Republicans in Congress threatened to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood, I successfully championed the law guaranteeing continued state funding for Planned Parenthood's health care services if the federal government terminates funding. For many Marylanders these clinics are a key source of primary health care, including cancer screening, preventive health and family planning services. Access to these essential health care services is now protected in Maryland.

7. Gun violence has long been a concern for Americans, wherever they are. If you become governor, what will your government do to minimize to prospects of gun violence in Maryland?

I am and have long been a strong advocate of measures to prevent gun violence. In Maryland, as in many other states, despite our ban on assault weapons, there are still too many incidences of gun violence which take a high physical, emotional and financial toll on families

and communities. Recognizing the urgent need to strengthen and close loopholes in our current laws to prevent gun violence, as Governor I will:

- push for and enforce stronger laws to require background checks for all gun sales, including for gun shows and online sales, and to protect public safety.

- work for the enactment and enforcement of legislation to prevent those who have committed hate crimes from purchasing guns and to require them to surrender them upon conviction.

- oppose Republican congressional efforts which seek to undermine Maryland's gun laws by requiring that other states' concealed carry laws be respected in our state.

- tighten existing gun violence prevention laws to prohibit carrying or possessing firearms at Maryland public institutions of higher education.

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- I worked hard this session to enact stronger gun violence prevention laws. Here are the bills that we passed this year:

1. PUBLIC SAFETY - HANDGUN PERMIT REVIEW BOARD - REPEAL. I introduced and championed passage of legislation to implement a more objective process for the hearing of appeals from the denial of handgun permits by the Maryland State Police. The goal is to help ensure that gun permits are not provided to those deemed unsuitable to hold such permits. Governor Hogan has appointed gun rights advocates to the current state Handgun Permit Review Board which hears these appeals. As a result in the past several years there has been an increase in appeals to the Board and the Board has repeatedly overturned state police denials of gun permits, resulting in the granting of licenses to persons unsuitable to have such permits. This legislation provides that such appeals will be heard by experienced, impartial judges in the Office of Administrative Hearings who will work to uphold Maryland's gun laws rather than circumvent them.
2. BAN ON RAPID FIRE TRIGGER DEVICES (BUMP STOCKS). I advocated for the bill that passed Senate and the House to ban all rapid-fire trigger devices known as "bump stocks" and other accessories that enable a semi-automatic rifle to simulate automatic gunfire, closing a loophole in Maryland's current assault weapons ban.
3. CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TAKE GUNS FROM PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. I pushed for the successful legislation which requires that a defendant charged with a domestic crime be notified of the requirement to transfer firearms to a dealer or to law enforcement within two days of conviction of the domestic crime and to allow law enforcement to seek a search and seizure warrant if there is reason to believe that the individual still possesses firearms.
4. RED FLAG LAW. I fully support the legislation passed by the General Assembly which allows family members to apply for an extreme risk prevention order to allow a court to

order a person to temporarily surrender firearms if a judge finds that the person poses an immediate threat to themselves or others.

I have a strong record of advocating for gun violence prevention and co-sponsored Maryland's Firearms Safety Act of 2013 which banned assault weapons and high capacity magazines for firearms. The Supreme Court let stand the federal court decision upholding this law.

8. When located in urban or low income settings, schools can be a war zone. And with the ever increasing issue of school violence, what are your plans to ensure that schools remain a safe haven for our children?

I was a leader in enacting this year's school construction bill which the General Assembly approved over the veto of Governor Hogan which includes approximately \$10 million in funding for projects related to improving or enhancing school security and school safety. In addition, I supported the legislation that passed this year to enhance school safety in Maryland by increasing school resource officers, and requiring all schools to have school safety emergency plans and better mental health education. And to ensure that schools and colleges and universities are a safe place, as governor, I will continue to fight for enactment of additional gun violence prevention legislation, as detailed in the answer above.

9. Seasonal / migrant agricultural workers ---- migrant farm labor play a key role, chiefly in vegetable and fruit harvesting. Caribbean-origin migrant farm workers, principally Haitians and Jamaicans have diversified the seasonal agricultural workforce over the years. These workers have played a vital role in labor-intensive agriculture. There have been ongoing concerns over migrant children and healthcare for the migrant population as well as housing. What are your plans to address this issue?

Our seasonal agricultural workforce is important to agriculture in our state. It is critical to provide education for migrant children and healthcare for our migrant population. I supported and advocated for a law to provide funds to support health care services for immigrant children and pregnant women. To promote and ensure the health of all workers, I introduced and worked for the Community Healthy Air Act, a common-sense proposal requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment to study and monitor all air pollutants from factory farms and report back on those findings. This legislation will help protect public health and be an important first step in safeguarding our residents from any harmful air emissions. I will implement a long-term plan to increase affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. To assist tenants, I worked to enact the law that protects tenants from losing utility service where the landlord's failure to pay the utility threatens service. I proposed a bill to expand rental assistance programs in Maryland

by providing for two years of assistance to eligible households benefiting from this necessary support. I support the establishment of a Rental Housing Stabilization Commission to look at mechanisms to stabilize rental housing and keep rental increases in check in Maryland, where approximately one third of all residents are renters.

10. Marcus Mosiah Garvey, a Jamaican, was unjustly imprisoned by the American Government inThere Caribbean community is seeking a posthumous pardon from the President of the United States on behalf of his family, and the wider community itself. As governor, will you be prepared to support this effort, and if so, how?

It is highly unlikely that the current President would consider granting a posthumous pardon for Marcus Mosiah Garvey. However, as governor, I would be willing to review and consider the request of the Caribbean community to send a letter in support of the pardon.

11. Caribbean persons have contributed greatly to the fabric of America. Are you in favor of including a Caribbean based lesson plan in Maryland's social studies curriculum?

Yes. I believe that our school curriculum should include lessons that cover all of our great immigrant communities, including a Caribbean based lesson plan. It is important for our children to learn more about the many different places in the world that our population comes from and to respect and value the broad and diverse cultures, histories and stories that make our American fabric so interesting, rich and strong.

12. In your political career, what accomplishment are you most proud of, and why?

While there are many accomplishments that I am proud of during my 16 years in the General Assembly, I am most proud of the victory in achieving the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples in Maryland. My legislative work moved forward our historic law which guarantees that two persons who choose to marry may do so in our state. And my leadership and advocacy were critical to voter approval of this law in a statewide referendum, the first of its kind in the nation.

I am the first openly gay individual elected to and who has served in the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland Senate. I was elected to the House of Delegates in 2002 and was first elected to the Senate in 2006 where I have served since that time. Throughout my career I have spoken out and stood up against discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and other arbitrary classifications. Many people know me as the person who brought marriage equality to Maryland. And I am very proud of that reputation.

