



ACLU of Maryland Speaker Candidate Questionnaire

To the candidates for Speaker of the House of Delegates:

This transition in leadership of the House of Delegates presents a unique opportunity for the next Speaker of the House to implement measures which can make the legislative process more transparent and accessible while ensuring a diverse set of voices and ideas are represented. As such the ACLU of Maryland, and partner organizations from across Maryland, submit this candidate survey for all candidates for Speaker of the House.

Please complete this candidate survey by April 24, 2019. The ACLU of Maryland will publish the responses as a public education service before the May 1, 2019 Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly to provide Maryland legislators and voters with information on the candidates' positions regarding transparency, accessibility, and governance in the House of Delegates.

Neither the ACLU of Maryland nor the ACLU of Maryland Foundation endorses candidates or supports political campaigns in any way. The ACLU of Maryland is strictly non-partisan. It advocates for the freedom of all Marylanders guided by the U.S. and Maryland Constitutions and the Maryland Declaration of Rights. A link to this survey has been sent to all candidates for Speaker of the House of Delegates and the full House of Delegates membership. Responses received by April 24 will be disseminated and published on the ACLU of Maryland website. "No response" will be indicated for any candidates who do not complete the survey by April 24.

If you have any trouble completing the survey, contact Amber Taylor at the ACLU of Maryland, taylor@aclu-md.org or 410-889-8555. The survey must be e-mailed to the Amber Taylor at the ACLU of Maryland, taylor@aclu-md.org. The subject line should read "Speaker Candidate Survey". Your responses must be received by April 24, 2019 to be included.

Thank you for sharing your position on these important issues with Maryland voters.

--- *The ACLU of Maryland, Inc. is an organization that is exempt from tax pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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A Transparent Legislative Process

Over time, Marylanders have noticed a deeply troubling trend wherein multiple pieces of legislation—often unrelated and even with opposing intent—are combined into a single bill. Language from failed or failing bills are often amended onto other bills likely to pass, either in committee or on the floor. As a result, each provision of the resultant bill is not voted on individually and Marylanders are foreclosed from knowing which provisions are supported or opposed by their Delegate.

1. How will you scrutinize bill titles to ensure that they truly represent bill content? Do you plan to make any changes to how bills are assigned to committees?
2. Will you commit to consistent enforcement of the one-subject rule, to guard against unrelated subject matter from being used as trade-offs? When do you believe it is appropriate for committees to add provisions or subject matter from other bills that are unlikely to pass on their own to bills that have strong support as a compromise, for leverage or as a vehicle to pass less popular provisions? Do you believe there are circumstances where this type of negotiation is inappropriate?
3. In committee, will you require the sponsor of all amendments receiving a vote to be recorded? Will you require roll-call votes on all committee amendments to bills or will hand votes be permitted? Will all amendments offered and votes on amendments be made available online? Please explain your reasoning.
4. As a general rule, should legislation advance if it has the support of the majority of the Democratic Caucus or majority support from all members of the Maryland General Assembly? If not, explain your reasoning.

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An Accessible Legislative Process

Every day, Marylanders express frustration that they are unable to access the legislative process. Marylanders who are eager to engage in our civic processes are simply unable to do so because of existing structural and technological barriers. Many people cannot afford time away from work to travel to Annapolis and spend the day; the expense of traveling across the state to observe proceedings may be prohibitively high; and for some Marylanders with mobility challenges, physical presence to observe meetings and voting sessions is simply not practical. Transparency serves as a valuable tool for ensuring civic participation and governmental accountability. Without reasonable access to the committee process, the public will be hampered in their ability to participate in those topics that are important to them.

Moreover, they will be less able to follow what their public officials are doing and hold them accountable.

5. Will you require committee voting sessions be simultaneously broadcast, either online or outside the hearing room? If so, by what date will you implement this change? If not, please explain your reasoning.
6. Will you require that committee chairs make reasonable efforts to publish a tentative order of bill hearings 24 hours in advance? If not, please explain your reasoning.
7. What is your plan for making the subcommittee and workgroup process more accessible? Please include details regarding subcommittee voting sessions, agendas and notice requirements.

De-concentration of Power in the House of Delegates

Some Delegates occupy multiple positions of power. This concentrates legislative power and influence in the hands of these few legislators. This distribution of power ultimately harms Marylanders whose representatives have not occupied leadership roles. This dynamic is exacerbated by the lengthy terms for which individuals occupy leadership roles.

8. How will you select the chairs and vice chairs of committees—what criteria are most important to you? Will you commit to selecting members who have demonstrated a commitment, through actual policy-making, to economic, social and racial justice? If not, please explain your reasoning.
9. Do you believe that persons in leadership positions should not occupy more than one position of leadership, including caucus and party leadership positions? Are there specific positions that you believe can or should be held simultaneously? If so, please explain.
10. Will standing committee members be consulted regarding the selection of committee chairs, vice-chairs and subcommittee chairs? How important do you believe their input is in the selection process?
11. What is your vision for more diverse and inclusive leadership in the House of Delegates and how do you intend to effectuate that vision?
12. If elected to Speaker of the House, will you commit to stepping down from your position in 8 years or fewer? Would you support limiting the tenure of committee chairs to 8 years? If not, please explain your reasoning.