

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Commissioner Candidates

Stephen Wantz

Do you support a reduction to the cap on property tax assessments?

My intent has and will continue to be, maintaining all tax rates. Needs continue to increase and any reductions severely affect our ability to meet them.

If elected will you support the "Constant Yield Tax Rate" for Carroll County?

My previous answer applies here as well. Maintaining current rates allows continuous methods to meet increasing needs. Living within our means remains incredibly important, however, to assure no increase in any of our rates.

Would you support Code Home Rule?

Yes. Code Home Rule gives boards of Commissioners police powers under the law. It creates no new taxing authority and would require no additional funds. With the continuing challenge of Annapolis decisions and the difficulty of reaching across the aisle it remains interesting to me that Carroll citizens are OK with everyone else in the State making our decisions for us. Decisions such as enacting a Gateway tax credit, regulating pawn shops, creating pension plans for officers and employees, forward funding road connections and most recently enabling legislation for Fire and EMS should be our decision, not those who do not live here or have no vested interest in our County.

Would you support Charter Government?

Not at this time. The current form of government is very young and needs time to mature. Folks appreciate the ability to have personal representation for the area in which they reside with a District form of representation. As population grows and challenges increase in Annapolis however, the time will come to address our form of government.

Would you support the creation of a county-funded professional Fire Department?

No. However what I do support is a successful transition to a combination service. This will come to fruition as a result of recent enabling legislation which

was requested by our volunteer fire service folks. A combination system that compliments not competes with the current service is essential. Infusing the biggest need into our volunteer fire stations, paid personnel, to ensure elected officials most important responsibility, providing public safety, remains critically important. Done correctly, our volunteer fire stations, the hubs of our communities, will remain as we meet our adequate response rates.

Would you support protecting farmers/landowners rights to be able to sell their property?

Yes. I remain a huge proponent of personal property rights.

How do you plan on working with the BOE to do what is best for students and tax payers?

I look forward to the combination of new BOE members and new leadership at CCPS in anticipation of what it could bring. Focusing on school based personnel as opposed to supervisory positions is essential. Thinking outside of the box to create solutions to federal and state mandates, aging facilities, and proper populations at our schools will require positive, open communication to achieve collaborative solutions together.

How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance?

On a scale of 1 to 10 he receives a 10. A strong smart Republican Governor working in a Democratic State deserves that score and more.

How do you plan on working with the delegation to do what is best for Carroll County?

As I have done and will continue to do, constant communication to assure all are on the same page. In my role on the Maryland Association of Counties I am in Annapolis weekly which allows this to occur. It is also essential to ensure we have a great legislative liaison in place. I was responsible for introducing and ensuring our current liaison was hired. It has paid dividends !

Is it fair to assume prior donations to individuals and campaigns reflect your character and values?

I have rarely given to donations to anyone. As a result the answer is yes.

Governor Hogan and President Trump are both Republicans. However, they have two very different approaches when it comes to governing. As a Republican, do you think that it is possible to be a supporter of both Governor Hogan and President Trump?

Yes. Regardless of what you think about either one, we should all be rooting for our country. Everyone should be working together to continue to ensure we are united.

Have you ever been a named party in a lawsuit against the Maryland Republican party or one of the state's Republican central committees?

No

Are you able to work with Republicans who have varying conservative ideologies?

Yes. I remain challenged by those individuals who elude nothing but negativity when in front of a microphone. The increasing amount of vitriol and toxicity is disheartening. Challenging times require working together. I watch a few in our County who have a growing lack of civility and continue to shake my head. All are entitled to their own opinions but not their own facts and there is a right and wrong way to deliver them.

What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County?

As a life long resident, I remain energized by those who work collaboratively as life and times change to ensure our County remains the best in our State. As I travel around the State, in my role, I continue to see how we do everything better than our peers. From our non-profits, to our teachers, public safety folks, county employees and the list goes on and on, I remain proud to watch our county function. Looking into my children and grandchildren's eyes, this is essential.

In three words, describe Carroll County Values.

Committed, Passionate, Honest

When and why did you become a Republican?

1980 to ensure I could vote for Ronald Reagan.

Are you pro-Life?

I personally oppose abortion however there may be special circumstances such as rape or incest.

Are you supportive of the Second Amendment?

Yes. I also believe criminals who use guns to commit crimes or who carry guns should be given mandatory sentences with no opportunity for parole.