

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Commissioner Candidates

Bret Grossnickle

Do you support a reduction to the cap on property tax assessments? We should not play games with how assessments are made or utilized. Taxes should be levied on the value of the property. Having said that, I will work to keep taxes at a minimum and see that they are adequately and fairly put to use.

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

Would you support Code Home Rule? As I understand it now, yes. I would like the opportunity to study it further before making a firm decision either way.

Would you support Charter Government? This form of government should be weighed against Code Home Rule and both need to be evaluated for cost versus potential outcome.

Would you support the creation of a county-funded professional Fire Department? A paid fire department is inevitable and its creation should be studied and implemented as soon as possible. Perhaps a hybrid of paid and volunteer can be a bridge to a fully paid service.

Would you support protecting farmers/landowners rights to be able to sell their property? I was not aware that farmers and other landowners were limited in this right. If it is from a zoning restriction then it becomes a much harder question to answer. Growth and zoning are extremely sensitive and volatile issues that require patience and compromise. In a perfect world one could do whatever they liked with their property, but in this world those choices may adversely affect the value or use of someone else's property. This is the reason for zoning law and no matter how hard we try it will never be perfect.

How do you plan on working with the BOE to do what is best for students and tax payers? We all want the best possible education for our children. I don't believe anyone would dispute that. The problem is funding. I would work with the BOE to find a workable solution to these issues with an open mind and a desire to reach workable solutions.

How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance? Governor Hogan has done a pretty good job given the partisan politics he has had to deal with. I would prefer that he was a stronger defender of the constitution, especially the Second Amendment.

How do you plan on working with the delegation to do what is best for Carroll County? With 31 years in municipal government, I have a lot of experience in dealing with these types of issues and the people involved. It is possible to have a non-adversarial relationship with the delegation.

Is it fair to assume prior donations to individuals and campaigns reflect your character and values? 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? Absolutely. No two people are the same and the background of each of them has shaped the way they manage situations and personnel. You can find fault with either's approach. You also have to admit that each one has produced results that have improved the lives of Marylanders and Americans. Neither of these are in this alone so blame and praise must be shared by all of our representatives.

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? I am able to work with anyone. When you show up to work, the desired outcome is not changed by the people you work with, only the approach may differ.

What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County? The people.

In three words, describe Carroll County Values. Integrity, strength, kindness.

When and why did you become a Republican? I have always been a Republican and I have found through the years that Republican values most closely match my own.

Are you pro-Life? Yes. There are certainly situations where abortion may be necessary such as rape, incest or life-threatening complications; however, it should not be accepted as a routine form of birth control.

Are you supportive of the Second Amendment? Absolutely. 100%