

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Commissioner Candidates

Frank Robert

Do you support a reduction to the cap on property tax assessments? Yes For veterans and specially designated citizens. I am strongly in favor of the homestead tax credit cap, the Maryland Homeowners Property tax credit, the Carroll County Senior Tax credit, the Blind Person tax credit and the Disabled veteran tax credit. As a fiscal conservative, I am the only candidate that has a proven track record on taxes and can say that while governing, I never voted for a tax increase for 8 straight years.

If elected will you support the “Constant Yield Tax Rate” for Carroll County? If we were flush with incoming funds that would be great, the reality is that does not seem prudent at the current time. I would like to see Veterans that retire in Carroll County have some additional tax benefits. As a fiscal conservative, I am the only candidate that has a proven track record on taxes and can say that while governing, I never voted for a tax increase for 8 straight years

Would you support Code Home Rule?

Blanket statements are tough to judge. It always comes back to the details that are finally approved. The current situation is not ideal in that Carroll County remains at the mercy of the State of Maryland to pass friendly local legislation. We are fortunate in that the current Governor is a friend of Carroll County which has not always been the case. Ultimately, I want the County Government to be more responsive to the voters. How do we achieve this? One way is to make referendums easier to be utilized. The more responsive our government can be, the better it will manage our affairs. Code home rule provides voters in Code counties the power to petition public laws to referendum more easily. No matter what form of government we have in Carroll, I would like to see that the government becomes more responsive and that referendums are more easily utilized in the future. Additionally I would like to have more potentially “hot” topics discussed at night where more citizens can participate. Many times Zoning or code changes are discussed in the daytime when most folks are working.

Would you support Charter Government? The current situation is not ideal in that Carroll County remains at the mercy of the State of Maryland to pass friendly local legislation. We are fortunate in that the current Governor is a friend of Carroll County which has not always been the case. Ultimately, I want the County Government to be more responsive to the voters. How do we achieve this? One way is to make referendums easier to be utilized. The more responsive our government can be, the better it will manage our affairs. No matter what form of government we have in Carroll, I would like to see that the government becomes more responsive and that referendums are more easily utilized in the future. Additionally I would like to have more potentially “hot” topics discussed at night where more citizens can participate. Many times Zoning or code changes are discussed in the daytime when most folks are working.

Would you support the creation of a county-funded professional Fire Department?
Yes, With the growing amount of dual income providers of our Carroll County families, there are less and less adult volunteers available. It is inevitable that Carroll will be having more paid first responders. However volunteers can be utilized well. For instance, in Sykesville we have an excellent paid police force and a complimentary auxiliary police force which work very well together.

Would you support protecting farmers/landowners rights to be able to sell their property?
Yes, I am strongly in favor of the goal to protect 100,000 acres of Carroll farm land. Farmers also do have the right to sell their land if they so choose.

How do you plan on working with the BOE to do what is best for students and tax payers?
Obviously there is currently a disconnect between the Commissioners and the Board of Education. Is it trust or lack of communication? Either way, I currently have the backing of the Teachers and the president of the Board of Education and at least 2 other members of the Board of Education. Building a consensus is important if we are to make Carroll the best place to raise a family. We made Sykesville the Coolest small town in America, now let's make Carroll the Best Place to Raise a Family.

How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance?

Very Good. He is walking a delicate tight rope of trying to accomplish his goals while he is burdened with the republicans being a significant minority in both the House and the Senate.

How do you plan on working with the delegation to do what is best for Carroll County?
Obviously communication is very important to creating a good working relationship with both the district 5 and the district 9 delegation.

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

You would hope so.

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?

Governing and accomplishing things is hard while saying "no" is easy. Trying to get things accomplished is always a challenge. Setting priorities is important.

Taking on challenges are crucial. When small towns were dying we took on the challenge of turning Sykesville around. Now there is a waiting list of businesses that would love to be on Main Street Sykesville. The Coolest Small Town in America.

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?
Of course

What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County?
The people are nice and friendly!

In three words, describe Carroll County Values.
People are nice!

When and why did you become a Republican?

I have been a Republican my entire life.. I was a big fan of President Reagan

Are you pro-Life?
Yes

Are you supportive of the Second Amendment?
Yes