

## **Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Commissioner Candidates**

**Ed Rothstein (COL. Ret.)**

**Do you support a reduction to the cap on property tax assessments?** Decisions made for our Carroll County residents' pay in property taxes over and above the State Homestead Property Tax Credit should be made within Carroll County by the voters and who they elect. I am not for blanket decisions regarding tax caps that are made at the state-level nor am I in favor of tax increases..

**If elected will you support the “Constant Yield Tax Rate” for Carroll County?** I do not support increase in taxes. I will look for opportunities to lower taxes and the ‘constant yield tax rate,’ formula can be used as a guide in this approach.

**Would you support Code Home Rule?**

**Would you support Charter Government?** I am running for Commissioner representing District 5 in Carroll County; therefore, I support our current form of government. Charter and Code Home Rule government can work if done properly and does not increase costs to taxpayers when correctly implemented. We have seen Code Home Rule and recently Charter government work successfully in surrounding jurisdictions. I respect that approach. In Carroll County, it is ultimately up to the voters to decide if and when it is time to move towards charter government; however, I do not believe that time is now.

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

Short answer is yes, but the timing and resources must be in place. Crafting a hybrid volunteer/paid model via dialogue with current volunteer fire companies is an excellent way to create a bridge to future EMS needs in Carroll County without overburdening our taxpayers. Recently, enabling legislation was a great first step in the discussion of where emergency services are headed in Carroll County. In order to retain our deputies we must find the financial resources to pay them a competitive salary and benefits as well as providing necessary equipment and training. Supporting CCVESA and individual fire companies is critical. Taking the appropriate steps for County oversight will allow better resourcing in the budget to support law enforcement, fire and EMS.

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

As a principle, land use measures should be decided locally via planning and zoning within Carroll County as they have traditionally been. Bottom line - Carroll County knows best how to deal with local land use issues and can better respond to our residents affected for those individuals to have their individual rights to their respective property.

**How do you plan on working with the BOE to do what is best for students and tax payers?** First by focusing on the priority – the children that we serve and their education.

Three principles include working with the board of education to understand their vision and strategy that focuses on the abovementioned priority; provide the BOE the necessary

resources along with support while maintaining full transparency, and, most of all, having open communications to our community. With that in mind, the focus for the budget process must be requirements based and not on the percentages. Having a collaborative AND comprehensive budget is a must that involves the schools and other agencies that have a role in meeting the requirements.

**How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance?** Overall, outstanding. Just as Rome was not built in a day, the changes necessary to happen in Maryland are taking time. Fortunately, we have Governor Hogan with strength and vision who has put together a very strong team that strives to listen, learn, and lead. I have worked with the Governor's office along with many of his cabinet developing strong relationships and dialogue regarding commerce, labor, transportation, and veteran's affairs – all in a very positive way.

**How do you plan on working with the delegation to do what is best for Carroll County?** In the Army we have a saying, "One Team; One Fight." Simply put, keeping a strong dialogue going and participate in open / candid conversation ensuring we mutually understand our County priorities.

**Is it fair to assume prior donations to individuals and campaigns reflect your character and values?** First off, I never like to base opinions off assumptions. With that said, once we turn an assumption into a fact, it is appropriate to make a validated opinion. Prior donations and activities can add up and trends be developed that reflect character and values-based decisions by individuals; however, it is also important to understand the background an individual brings to the effort that includes past relationships, work ethic and experiences.

**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! Their approaches to governing may be different; however, their dedication to service and commitment to the community are making progress every day. Leadership comes in many forms and strong leaders can navigate through different opinions along with dissention. Key to their success, and the success of those they serve, is the ability to communicate and collaborate with others, and then make the informed decision. I believe both Governor Hogan and our President have applied those leadership qualities in their differing approaches.

**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?** Absolutely, in fact, I encourage open and candid discussions on the differing ideologies and approaches. While serving in Command on Fort Meade, there were often varying ideas amongst command and the staff. Strong leadership allows for that to occur and then is dedicated to build the appropriate consensus through candid conversations and dialogue.

**What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County?** The people! We moved here about 11 years ago because of the community, schools and proximity to Fort Meade where I

was being stationed. Over the past decade, it is definitely the people that mean the most to me and the family.

**In three words, describe Carroll County Values.** Community, Family, Friendly

**When and why did you become a Republican?** Early in my military career I registered as a Republican. For the longest time, while in uniform, political affiliation was regardless because the Commander-In-Chief was the Commander, period. However, I saw personal and character flaws with some that were in the Democratic party that I could not relate to or accept. I began to appreciate the values set by our Republican party that include strong family values, strong local government working for the people, keeping fiscally conservative, and adhering to our Constitution.

**Are you pro-Life?** Yes

**Are you supportive of the Second Amendment?** Absolutely, for 31+ years I took the oath to office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States..... This oath that I took freely did not pick and choose which parts of the constitution to support and defend; therefore, I have for many years under oath, and now still remain a strong supporter of all our Constitution that includes our Second Amendment rights.