

# Carroll County Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for General Assembly Candidates

## David Ellin, Republican Candidate, District 5

1. **Would you support a reduction in the cap on property tax assessments?**

Yes, I would support a reduction in the current cap on property tax assessments.

Carroll County currently has a 5% cap on property tax assessments.

As a point of reference, other jurisdictions' current cap on property tax assessments are: Anne Arundel County 2%; Baltimore City 4%; Baltimore County 4%; and PG County 1%.

2. **Would you support bringing all new taxes and tax rate increases for voter approval?**

Yes, I support bringing any new taxes or tax rate increases to the voters for approval.

3. **Would you support a Maryland Taxpayer Bill of Rights?**

Yes, I wholeheartedly support a Maryland Taxpayer Bill of Rights which is designed to educate and assist our citizens during tax filing. This would help keep our citizens informed of their rights when completing their tax forms.

4. **Would you support a citizen's right to carry firearms for personal protection?**

Yes, I support a citizen's right to carry firearms for personal protection. I also believe Maryland should be a Shall Issue state for concealed carry.

5. **Would you support taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens?**

No, I do not support taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens. Illegal means illegal and they should not be entitled to any taxpayer-funded benefits available to United States citizens.

6. **Should Maryland be a sanctuary state?**

Absolutely not. There are legal means to enter the United States and individuals seeking to live in the United States should follow our immigration laws. I do not support Sanctuary States. Illegal is illegal and those not here legally need to apply through the legal process to enter and stay in the United States.

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

I plan on working side-by-side with our Superintendent, Commissioners and the Board of Education to resolve any issues at the state level and fight to bring back Carroll County's rightful share of state education dollars to resolve our education fiscal deficit and better pay for our teachers, education resources and school safety issues.

8. **How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance?**

I approve of Governor Hogan's business-friendly attitude to bring more jobs to Maryland and his efforts to reduce Maryland taxes. However, I am disappointed in the Governor's failure to support Second Amendment rights and his recent signing of the Red Flag Bill 1302, which placed further limits on citizens' rights to own or keep firearms for self-protection.

**9. How do you plan on working with Governor Hogan to do what is best for Carroll County if you are both elected?**

As Delegate, my job is to represent the residents I am elected to serve, and fight for them and the County's best interests. As an attorney and small-business owner, I am an effective and persuasive negotiator, a strategic problem solver and a fierce advocate. I respect and admire Governor Hogan's business-minded approach to running the State of Maryland, and share his results-oriented, straightforward approach to solve problems and reach a consensus. As Delegate, I am confident my trial skills, negotiating experience, and persistence will be effective as I work with Governor Hogan to advance and promote the County's legislative and budget priorities.

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

People donate to campaigns for many reasons. No, I do not believe that donations, especially from businessmen, are an adequate way to measure one's personal character and values. I am a businessman and have donated to both Republicans and Democrats alike because of business relations and personal family relationships. Even President Trump explained his political donations in the recent election when many questioned the donations he made to the Clinton Foundation and other Democrats. Political donations alone do not define one's character or personal values.

**11. Although Carroll County is run overwhelmingly by Republicans, the General Assembly is controlled by the Democrats. If elected, how do you plan on working with Democrats when it comes to resolving issues that have to be addressed at the state level?**

As an attorney, I work with people with diametrically opposed views and we often work to reach the best results for my clients. I am a skilled negotiator and fierce advocate for my clients' interests, and as Delegate I will provide the same level of determination and advocacy for my constituents. I will be elected to serve the people and fight for our County. I don't always expect Democrats and Republicans to see eye to eye, but I do plan to fight fiercely and stand firm for issues and values important to my constituents. And when appropriate - and without compromising the County's interest and values - I will work with members of both parties to seek answers to reach a workable solution to move forward.

**12. 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?**

I respect and support both President Trump and Governor Hogan. While I may not always agree with every decision, I believe it is best for our state and for our nation to stand firm in my support of the Governor and President.

**13. 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.

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

As Delegate it is my job to represent ALL the citizens of Carroll County in Annapolis. I plan on meeting and working side-by-side with constituents and others of all political beliefs and social values to understand their needs and ideologies.

**15. What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County?**

The PEOPLE are my favorite thing about Carroll County. Carroll County is a family-oriented county. We promote family values, the people are down to earth, have deep faith, and work hard every day.

**16. In three words, describe Carroll County Values.**

- Family
- Faith
- Farmland

**17. When and why did you become a Republican?**

I have been a Republican for over 19 years. I registered as a Republican in 1991, as soon as I was old enough to register to vote. I registered as a Republican because I admired President Ronald Reagan, who served as President until 1989. I thought President Reagan was a no-nonsense, charismatic leader who was able to get things done. He acted with integrity, was straightforward, well-liked, and he hated big government. He was responsible for the economic boom of the 1980's because of the bipartisan tax reform measures he signed into law that lowered individual and corporate tax rates to historic lows. Like President Reagan, I believe in a system of lower taxes and fewer government regulations. In 2006, I switched my party to Democrat because I was frustrated with changes in the law and their impact on injured citizens and their families. In 2014, I returned to my Republican roots, because I was never aligned with Democratic policy and values - I always believed we should have less government interference and lower taxes. I am not alone in my party affiliation journey – I traveled a similar political path as many others, such as Presidents Reagan and Trump and even my opponent Haven Shoemaker, who is a career politician and has only been a Republican for 14 years.

**18. Are you pro-Life?**

Yes.

**19. Are you supportive of the Second Amendment?**

I am a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment. I was taught to how to use guns and respect gun safety since I was 8 years old. I am a proud NRA member and I have my HQL. Maryland's gun laws and fees are far too restrictive for law-abiding citizens. I believe we have enough gun laws and many need to be repealed, including the recent Red Flag Bill 1302, because they infringe upon our Second Amendment rights. I also believe Maryland should be a Shall Issue state with regards to concealed carry. I believe in reciprocity between states, which Maryland currently does not have.

**20. Are you in favor of any restrictions on the Second Amendment?**

Absolutely not. We have enough gun laws on the books in Maryland that infringe on our Second Amendment rights and many need to be repealed.