

Carroll County Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for General Assembly Candidates

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

Would you support bringing all new taxes and tax rate increase for voter approval? **Yes**

Would you support a Maryland Taxpayer Bill of Rights? **Yes**

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

Would you support taxpayer funded benefits for illegal aliens? **No**

Should Maryland be a sanctuary state? **Absolutely not**

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

Right now, the most serious education issue facing Carroll County is how the new funding formula will treat the County. The formula will be part of the Kirwan Commission Report due sometime this year. As the successor to the Thornton Commission, it is almost certain that the report will call not only for additional education funding, but for an even greater percent of the funds to go primarily to Baltimore City. (Such a decision would make no sense since, the effort to fix Baltimore City schools by directing more and more millions of dollars to them, has failed miserably, and no amount of additional funds will help until the underlying lack of accountability and administrative mismanagement are addressed.) Our primary role as State delegates will be to see that Carroll is treated fairly in the new funding formula.

How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance?

Governor Hogan has done an incredible job governing Maryland over these past four years. He has exercised his power to set the State spending level to create four straight years of balanced budgets with no new taxes.

As long as the Democrats have veto-proof margins in both the House and the Senate, it is difficult for the Governor to get legislation passed. Nonetheless, he has been able to do a great deal to enhance Maryland's economy despite the anti-business legislation the legislature keeps passing.

If we can elect another 7 Republican delegates and/or another 5 Republican Senators, we will be able to break the Democrat's veto-proof monopoly.

How do you plan on working with Governor Hogan to do what is best for Carroll County if you are both elected? ***First, since I represent two counties, I make it a practice to work closely with Susan Krebs, Haven Shoemaker and April Rose to be sure we are united in our representation of Carroll County. During this past term, the Delegation has been very successful in working with Governor Hogan, particularly in finding additional funding for Carroll County schools. Fortunately, Governor Hogan cares about, and legislates for the benefit of the whole state – not just the major urban counties that got all of the attention and benefit from the prior administration. The Governor has been receptive to the concerns of Carroll County during this term, and we will work together to make sure he continues his support.***

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

Not sure what you mean. Donations I have made to other candidates, or contributions others have made to my campaign? If the former, the answer is yes. I control who I give money to, and I donate to candidates and causes I support. If the latter, I can't be quite as certain. There are organizations who contribute to candidates who don't necessarily share their views, for various reasons. I could go back and look through my contributions to be sure, but I can think of only one incident in which I was endorsed by and received a minor contribution from an organization I don't generally agree with. Last year, the Howard County Education Association endorsed me – despite the fact that I told them very straightforwardly during the interview that I am a strong supporter of Charter Schools. And that's how I voted. Nonetheless, it made me a bit uncomfortable, and this year, I am not a candidate for their endorsement.

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?

I have developed and maintain excellent relationships with the members of my committee; they don't always agree with me, but they do respect my opinion and will listen to my suggestions. The Republican House leadership has done an extraordinary job of leveraging our 50 Republican votes, and I strongly support the team efforts

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; I am.

Have you ever been a named party in a lawsuit against the Maryland Republican Party or one of the state's Republican central committees? *Good heavens, no.*

Are you able to work with Republicans who have varying conservative ideologies? *Yes . . . we are definitely a diverse bunch.*

What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County? *I can tell you what I like best about Carroll County, but I'm one of your 2-County delegates, and I live in western Howard. Nonetheless, I love the people who live in Carroll, many of whom I met when I was knocking on doors. I also adore the Town of Sykesville, and enjoy coming to its fairs—particularly the craft fairs along the main street. Two of the things I like best about Carroll are (1) the County has an impressive ability to control spending and regulation, and (2) in the 2014 primary election, there were 5 of us running for the two seats; Carroll County voters put me over the third-place finisher and gave me my win.*

In three words, describe Carroll County Values. *Patriotic, responsible, caring.*

When and why did you become a Republican? *When: More than 50 years ago. Why: My political education began when I started watching William F. Buckley on Firing Line. I read every one of his books, plus the writings of both liberals and conservatives he had on the*

Delegate Trent Kittleman

District 9A

show. It was clear to me that I agreed almost 100% with this man, and since he was a conservative, I must be one too. Mr. Buckley described the Republican party as having two branches: the Conservatives, who value the traditions of our country, and the libertarians (like me) who epitomize the 'leave me alone' element of the party. So I have always been comfortable with the seeming inconsistencies among party members.

Are you pro-Life? This is not an absolute issue with me. I support legislation that would eliminate the violent abortions that are performed late-term and upon pain-capable fetuses. I am against public funding of abortions, and am particularly opposed to government forcing organizations hospitals to perform abortions, medical insurers to insure abortions, and other such government mandates.

Are you supportive of the Second Amendment? Absolutely!!

Are you in favor of any restrictions on the Second Amendment? I'm inclined to say "no," but that's because we've passed so many unconstitutional restrictions already. I think the right answer is to treat the 2nd amendment the same way we treat free speech, in the first amendment. We restrict free speech only when it rises to the level of "action words." Unfortunately, students on college campuses seem to be unaware of the right to – or the purpose for – free speech. The Constitution is under attack on many fronts.