

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot™

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD21042

### ETHICS BALLOT QUESTIONNAIRE

#### Howard County Legislative Primary 2022

Congratulations on your decision to run for Howard County State Delegate. The People's Voice is a civic/political organization in Howard and Montgomery Counties. We have over 4,000 members in Howard County and sponsor the non-partisan Ethics Ballot. If you would like to seek endorsement please return this Questionnaire to [EthicsBallot@Gmail.com](mailto:EthicsBallot@Gmail.com) by midnight May 24, 2022. Please note that all questionnaires are published on the website, [www.EthicsBallot.com](http://www.EthicsBallot.com). We will be in touch regarding endorsement dates soon after getting the questionnaires back. We pride ourselves in working hard for our endorsed candidates, and look forward to hearing your positions on important County issues. THANK YOU so very much for your time!

#### Be sure to address all aspects of each question.

Name/District: Steven M. Bolen/Maryland Delegate District 9A

Campaign Address/Phone/Email

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Educational History

Ph.D. Electrical Engineering  
M.S. Electrical Engineering  
B.S. Electrical Engineering

Languages Spoken/Other Skills/Relevant Experience

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#### 1. Why are you running for this office? Describe how your campaign is viable. What qualifications do you uniquely bring to hold this office? What experience do you have with the General Assembly?

I am running for Delegate in District 9A to build a better, brighter, more equitable future for Maryland. If elected, I will serve the people, not the Party. We need to keep our promise to hard-working families to help them with their struggle against inflation, our children to keep them in school safely and to give them the world-class education they need to compete in today's global economy, and combat climate change by building a renewable, clean energy, jobs building economy.

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During my twenty-seven years in government service, I worked at executive levels. I learned how to listen to diverse points of view and collaborate with others to move the mission forward without compromising my core values. In what I view as today's deeply partisan political climate, these are critical skills essential to reaching common sense solutions to the most pressing issues my district currently faces. I will use my experience to build partnerships across party divisions and work to build a better, brighter, more equitable future for all Marylanders.

I have provided testimony on environmental issues at the state assembly and in front of the Howard County State Delegation.

Finally, as the 2018 Democratic Party Nominee and Primary winner, I know how to manage a state delegate campaign. I have built a broad, popular base of supporters that reaches deep into Howard and Montgomery Counties and have earned several endorsements in recent weeks, including one from a sitting state delegate. This broad and unparalleled support will help propel me across the finish line.

### **2. Have you signed the No Dark Money, No Developer Money pledge? If NOT how do you eliminate the appearance of conflicts?**

Yes.

### **3. If you are elected, what are your top priorities for 2022?**

My top three priorities focus on:

1. Providing help to hard-working families struggling against inflation. And, it isn't just inflation. It's where inflation hits the hardest - food, gas, and rent; essentials people need to survive. We can provide immediate relief by expanding the earned income tax credit to help families keep more money in their budget instead of putting it into the government coffers. However, long-term solutions to combat inflation will require structural changes to our supply chain.
2. Keeping our kids safely in school and providing all students the world-class education they need to compete in today's competitive global economy. COVID-learning loss over the last two years has taken a toll on our kids in ways yet to be discovered. We must ensure our children stay in school safely and continue to learn.
3. Combating climate change now. I want to build a renewable, clean energy, jobs building economy for all Marylanders.

### **Discuss at least three legislative areas in need of change, and how you would address them.**

In believe, the three legislative areas in the greatest need of change center on broadening voter participation in our elections and building greater community confidence in our democratic process.

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We need to:

1. Expand Maryland's Fair Campaign Financing Fund to include the races for statewide offices for comptroller, attorney general, house of delegates, and senate.
2. Require greater transparency of candidates running for local homeowner association boards or other similar types of organizations that manage the financing and maintenance of common-use facilities by requiring them to report campaign financial contributions similar to candidates running for public office.
3. Ensure voters select their leaders and not the other way around. We need to end the practice of gerrymandering. I support efforts like the League of Women Voters People Powered Fair Maps program, which advocates for civic engagement and education, independent redistricting commissions, and transparency in the redistricting process.

#### **4. What do you believe are the strengths and weaknesses of the current Howard County Delegation? How have you demonstrated your ability to work with people who have diverse opinions and party affiliations?**

The Howard County Delegation's greatest strength is its diversity. The Delegation is gender-balanced and diverse in occupation, race, and socioeconomic status. However, as a Democrat, I believe the Delegation's lack of Democratic Party representation in Western Howard County is a weakness.

During my professional career, I worked across national and cultural boundaries to build collaborative teams that advanced our country's national security goals. Through my local community service, I have worked to advocate for non-discriminatory access to quality mental healthcare and to promote autism awareness. These are issues that cut across political boundaries.

#### **5. Do you believe that State or County funded housing trust funds should be utilized to provide affordable housing? If so, should they be restricted to government usage and not private projects? Why or why not?**

Yes. Community land trusts should be nonprofit, community-based organizations designed to ensure community land stewardship. For-profit privatization would only defeat the purpose of ensuring long-term housing affordability for low-income families.

#### **6. Do you support shifting the burden of proof in Special Education litigation from parents/guardians to the County School System? If not, why? If so, should legislation have a sunset clause?**

Yes. The legislation should not have a sunset clause.

### **7. Do you believe any State laws need to change regarding reproductive health?**

I am a pro-Choice candidate. I believe that a woman's right to choose is an important freedom that a woman should be allowed to exercise when determining family planning with her family, faith counselor, medical professional, and other trusted people in her life. I believe that abortion as one option should be legal and safe. I agree with the current Maryland state statute that termination should be banned after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with certain exceptions. Furthermore, I believe any woman who suffers a miscarriage or stillbirth during pregnancy should be protected from charges of homicide.

### **8. What changes, if any, do you support regarding employment law?**

Some changes I support:

1. Public school teachers should be allowed to negotiate class size during contract negotiation.
2. Maryland prevailing wage laws should cover mechanical service contracts.
3. The Maryland Commissioner of Labor should have the ability to issue a stop work order on any prevailing wage worksite where misclassification has been found.

### **9. Do you believe there is a need to change the MD Forest Conservation requirements or any other environmental protection or storm water management requirements?**

Despite Maryland's goals of "no net loss," the state's forest acreage is declining. The Maryland Forest Conservation Act requires planting only a quarter acre of new trees for every acre cleared for development. I support increasing this ratio from one quarter to two-fifths. Additionally, we need to help our rural community update their septic management systems and pipelines to reduce waste leakage into our groundwater.

### **10. What legislation do you feel is necessary to address Climate change concerns?**

My priorities will focus on:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by building a renewable, clean energy, jobs building economy for all Marylanders - that includes hydrogen/blue-ammonia power generation plants like what is being explored in Japan.
2. Continued support to resiliency programs that protect communities along our shores and businesses in vulnerable cities like old Ellicott City.
3. Supporting local farm-to-table/market value-added agriculture business to reduce rail/truck distribution miles driven and greenhouse gas emissions.

**11. What changes or extensions to the MD agricultural preservation program do you believe are necessary?**

According to the 2021 Governor's Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting, the state will need to set aside between 0.4% and 1.7% of farmland for solar energy production to meet its overall electric generation goals of 50% by 2030. I support building a renewable, clean energy, jobs building economy. Therefore, I also support setting aside some agricultural preservation land for solar energy production so that Maryland can achieve its electric generation goals.

By Authority: The People's Voice, Lisa Markovitz Treasurer