

3 Big Ideas: Candidate Comparisons on Campaign Issues Winter 2018

Each candidate provided their three biggest ideas for this document.

Rushern Baker



Making Healthcare Affordable and Accessible for All.

Access to affordable healthcare is a challenge that far too many have to face - particularly aging adults and young adults whose employers do not offer health insurance. As the primary caregiver to his wife who was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, Rushern Baker understands first-hand the financial strain that quality healthcare and prescription medication can put on a family. No one should have to forego healthcare because of the cost and no family should have to go into debt if there is an emergency. This is why Rushern Baker fights for affordable healthcare, invests in modern healthcare facilities, and is working to attract more doctors to our region.

Supporting Working Women and Families

Marylanders deserve to be represented by someone who shares their values. Rushern has released a comprehensive, first-in-the-nation plan to combat sexual harassment and sexual violence in Maryland, but mothers and their families need more than a harassment free work environment to thrive. Rushern has proposed providing 3-months of guaranteed paid family leave for every new mother and father in the State. No one should have to choose between caring for their child or ailing parent and putting food on the table.

Education directly impacts economic opportunity, and no one knows this better than Rushern Baker. As a student, he struggled with reading and had to repeat first and second grade. Because of the support of good teachers, he went on to become the first in his family to graduate from college. The opportunities he has been given by blessing should be available to everyone by right, no matter where you live. This is why, as County Executive of the second largest county in the state, he worked to improve education, prioritized quality economic development projects that produced the greatest return on investment and created good-paying jobs in struggling communities by raising the minimum wage. A county that was once leading the nation in foreclosures now leads the state in job creation.

Government Accountability and Transparency

In a time of extreme crisis in Washington, Marylanders should be confident that their state government is being held to highest levels of accountability and ethical standards. When he took office in 2010, Rushern Baker inherited an administration plagued by corruption. His first act as County Executive was to implement some of the toughest ethics reforms in the state and restrict county officials from accepting campaign contributions from developers. As Governor, he'll apply these transparency measures statewide and ensure that elected leaders in Maryland work for the people, not special interests.

Bio

Rushern Baker was elected as County Executive of Prince George's County in 2010, and continues to serve in that position. He was born in Georgia. A Green Beret who served in Vietnam, his father was assigned to an army base in Okinawa, Japan, taking his family with him (Rushern, his mother and three siblings). The family then settled in Massachusetts. Rushern has talked about his early struggles with reading and attributes the dedication of his family and teachers to helping him overcome difficulties and succeed academically. He received his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor (JD) from Howard University in 1982 and 1986, respectively.

He met his wife Christa at Howard, and after college they lived in Cheverly and raised their three children.

Rushern represented District 22B in the House of Delegates from 1994 to 2003, was a member of the Bar and worked for Baker and Perry law firm for several years, and served as Executive Director for the Community Teacher's Institute. Among many other boards and organizations, he served on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and Leadership Maryland, and as President of County Executives of America.

**Christine Davenport, Chair, Anne Arundel County
Democratic Central Committee, by authority of Robert
Haynes, Treasurer**

Ralph Jaffe



Bring Back TRUST

Currently, unfortunately, we do not have one politician in Maryland government who can be trusted based on my five principles.

- 1. Refuse campaign contributions** - they are disguised bribes
- 2. Tell the truth** - this should be all, not some, of the time
- 3. Serve one term only** - this discourages the career politician who gets caught up in the money, power, and fame of politics
- 4. Stay away from paid, professional lobbyists** - they exert a corrupting influence
- 5. Serve free** - put the salary in a trust fund to be distributed to the needy in the state

These principles are the keystone for getting people in government who are really public servants.

Until we have politicians who are committed to doing what is in the best interests of the people they serve, rather than their own personal gains, we will not get a handle on any of the problems that confront our state.

Education and Crime

We need an educational system and program that gives students hope instead of hopelessness. Too many students wind up lost and on the wrong side of the tracks.

My TUTOR-MENTOR TEAM PROGRAM is designed to steer and keep students on the right path to a life of success. Students are given an opportunity to connect with a TUTOR-MENTOR TEAM who will stay with him/her from the moment of linking up until the student graduates from high school and/or college and is gainfully employed.

An essential component to the Tutor/Mentor Program involves taking a new look at the curriculum.

I submit that our present system of public education is not meeting the needs of the students. Students in the public schools are victims of "classroom prison-like education," confined approximately 7 hours a day, 5 days a week, 10 months a year to a setting of classroom walls. Couple this with the teachers with the daunting challenge of educating and entertaining their students 6 or 7 hours a day, 5 days a week, 10 months a year. So...is it hard to understand why students could easily become bored and fed up in the classroom? I believe that teachers are overworked and underpaid. They deserve higher salaries.

The TUTOR-MENTOR TEAM program is the long term solution to the horrific problem that Baltimore City is facing.

Nursing Homes

The treatment of the elderly in nursing homes can be labeled as disgraceful. Unless the resident has tons of money to pay for special service, it comes as no surprise that the residents are often victims of negligence and mistreatment. I have expressed concerns about understaffing and safety in these facilities for the last 20 years. Having served as a volunteer in a nursing home for 10 years, I saw first hand what goes on. I am currently a volunteer in another nursing home.

If elected governor of the state of Maryland, I am going to make this a major priority by trying to persuade the state legislature to pass legislation to improve conditions for the residents who must reside in these so-called homes for the elderly and the needy. Part of the solution is a ratio of no more than 6 patients to 1 nurse's aide.

Bio

Mr Jaffe is a high school social studies teacher, not a politician. He now has his own public policy institute. He uses the political campaign as a teaching device to show his students where there is corruption in government and what they can do about it. Then, on a volunteer basis, his students can vote for the principles on which he stands. The JAFFE MOVEMENT'S mission is to put a stop to corruption in the Maryland political system and to replace it with true, ethical reform.

Please Note: The 9th Democratic candidate for Governor, James Jones Jr, has not yet responded to our request for information. When he does so, we will revise this report accordingly.

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Ben Jealous



Kevin Kamenetz



Education

As governor, Education will be my top priority. We need to ensure that there is a qualified teacher in every classroom and that starts with raising teacher pay so we can attract and retain the best talent. Additionally, we will increase funding for education and fully fund our schools. We will do this in part by finally allocating all of the casino money to increase historic sources of funding not supplant it. I will also ensure that we invest in our community colleges and apprenticeship programs so that our kids have multiple pathways to a successful future.

Jobs

Too many Marylanders struggle to pay for the rising costs of housing, education, and healthcare. Meanwhile wages have risen for residents in surrounding states while remaining stagnant here in Maryland. We must provide economic opportunity in every region of our state, while ensuring every job pays a living wage and workers have the protections they need on the job. This starts by raising the minimum wage to \$15, invigorating Maryland's tech economy, and investing in people by creating a healthy, well-educated workforce.

Healthcare

In Maryland, we must create a healthcare system that ensures residents are protected, regardless of what President Trump does in Washington. I'll do what it takes to make sure premiums don't bankrupt our families and strangle small businesses because we shouldn't expect to keep paying more for healthcare while getting less and less each year. That's why, as governor, I'll make sure that we have universal healthcare in our state, negotiate with drug companies to bring down pharmaceutical costs, and implement a Medicare-for-all system.

Bio

Ben's mother grew up in Baltimore public housing and helped integrate Western High School as a member of the NAACP's Youth and College Division. His father was one of the few white men jailed during the Congress of Racial Equality's efforts to desegregate Baltimore's downtown business district.

A Marylander throughout his career, Ben served as the president of the Rosenberg Foundation and was founding director of Amnesty International's U.S. Domestic Human Rights Program.

At 35, Ben became the youngest-ever President of the NAACP. Under his leadership, the NAACP increased membership three years consecutively for the first time in 20 years, opened national programs in education, health and environmental justice and worked on the economy and voting rights. In 2013, the Baltimore Sun named Ben Marylander of the Year because of his leadership efforts to abolish the death penalty, to pass marriage equality, to pass the DREAM Act, and to expand voting rights.

Ben manages Kapor Capital's Baltimore office where he has invested in several Maryland companies working to make our state stronger.

Ben is a graduate of Columbia and Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar). He is the proud father of two children who attend public schools.

Restoring Maryland's Schools to the Nation's Best

For years, Maryland's schools were ranked the best in the nation, but under Governor Hogan's watch, we are slipping down the list. As governor, Kevin will restore Maryland's schools to the nation's best by:

- Prioritizing early childhood education to provide universal pre-K to prevent achievement gaps before they begin.
- Updating funding formulas to support historically disadvantaged jurisdictions so that the quality of a child's education is not dependent on their zip code.
- Increasing the state's commitment to school construction funding and ensuring that public money supports public schools.
- Making higher education and job training more accessible and more affordable.

Growing Maryland's Economy

When a century of steelmaking ended at Bethlehem Steel, and we lost 2,000 jobs, Kevin focused on creating the next generation of jobs. The area is now coming back to life with 17,000 jobs in the nation's largest industrial redevelopment. This is the kind of economic development we need in Maryland, not blank checks for big corporations.

As governor, Kevin will create jobs and revitalize communities, by:

- Raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.
- Implementing thoughtful transportation strategies, including a renewed commitment to integrated mass-transit.
- Ending corporate welfare and focusing on job training to retain, promote, and attract businesses.

Protecting Our Environment for the Next Generation

When President Trump removed the United States from the Paris Climate Accords, Kevin immediately made sure Baltimore County joined the U.S. Climate Alliance. As governor, Kevin will continue to make government smarter and more environmentally responsible by:

- Defending our Chesapeake Bay from attacks by the Trump Administration.
- Taking steps to improve the health of our waterways, including doubling oyster sanctuaries, and creating incentives to reduce chicken manure runoff.
- Refocusing on smart growth development and continuing restorative practices to rebuild eroding stream beds and protect shorelines.
- Supporting renewable energy solutions—like solar and offshore wind—to protect our environment and grow our economy.

Bio

Kevin Kamenetz is a lifelong Marylander and a lifelong Democrat.

Kevin began his career in public service as a prosecutor in the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. In 1994, Kevin was elected to the Baltimore County Council, where he was re-elected four times.

Kevin has served as the Baltimore County Executive since 2010, where he has earned the reputation as a bold, progressive leader, making landmark investments in education, creating jobs, and fighting to protect the freedoms of Baltimore County residents.

Kevin and his wife, Jill, are proudly raising their two teenage sons in Owings Mills.

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Rick Madaleno



High Quality Education

Rich Madaleno is committed to making an excellent public education available to every child in Maryland. Currently a member of the state's Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission), he will ensure adequate funding to build a 21st century public school system; recruit, support and retain high quality teachers; build and support community schools; and expand pre-kindergarten programs. Building on his successful Hunger-Free Schools and Meal for Teens laws which brought free breakfasts and lunches to eligible school children, he will expand free lunches and breakfasts to those qualifying for reduced-price meals because ensuring good nutrition is an approach which improves students' learning.

Fair Economy

Rich Madaleno is fighting for working families, and is the lead sponsor of legislation to raise Maryland's minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour. Building on past successes in expanding the Earned Income Credit, Rick seeks to make that credit available to more Marylanders, including those under 25 years of age who are childless. In light of the Republican tax law which hits Maryland residents hard, he proposes making needed changes, so that Marylanders can continue to claim exemptions on state tax returns, and so that Maryland's estate tax maintains an assessment criteria reflective of Maryland values.

Health Care for All

Rich Madaleno believes that health care is a human right. He will be the strong leader Maryland needs to ensure that all Marylanders have access to affordable, high-quality health care. Building on his legislative successes in improving Maryland's health care system and given the recent repeal of the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act, Rich strongly supports a new health insurance down payment plan for uninsured Marylanders to provide coverage and to keep premiums affordable. In addition, Rich is working to pass a law to make prescription drugs affordable and to prevent price gouging by brand name drug companies selling products in Maryland.

Bio

Rich is a member of the Maryland State Senate, representing the 18th district in Montgomery County. He was elected to the House of Delegates in 2002, and four years later was elected as Senator.

Rich was educated in Montgomery County public schools and Georgetown Preparatory School. He earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Syracuse University in 1989.

Rich began his career in Maryland government working for the Maryland General Assembly's Department of Fiscal Services, which provides staff support to Senators and Delegates, where he was appointed Senior Analyst for the House Appropriations Committee. In 1995, he was hired to work for Montgomery County's Office of Intragovernmental Relations, and served there until his election to the House of Delegates. He is an expert in the State budget process and serves on the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

The first openly gay person elected to the Maryland House and Senate, Rich has been at the forefront of every LGBT policy victory in Maryland for twenty years. He is a vocal critic of Governor Hogan's continued attempts to finance tax cuts by cutting critical state programs on which Maryland families depend.

He and his husband Mark live in Kensington with their two children.

Christine Davenport, Chair, Anne Arundel County Democratic Central Committee, by authority of Robert Haynes, Treasurer

Alec Ross



Education

Talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not. I learned this firsthand when I taught 6th grade at Booker T. Washington Middle School in Baltimore. Many of my students were brilliant, but I knew they would struggle to succeed because of where they came from and what lay ahead. That's why education policy is the focus of my campaign – from early childhood to higher education to job-training and lifelong learning.

We have a once every 15 year opportunity with the Kirwan Commission to fix how we fund our schools, and my background as a teacher guides my belief that we need to reset the funding formula for our schools and bring equity to school financing so that the quality of a child's education isn't determined by the zipcode they live in.

Jobs & the Economy

We must build a more inclusive economy that works for everyone in Maryland. That starts with helping people get new job skills and matching employers to talented people that bring energy and know-how. Technology changes everything in tomorrow's economy. It's not a slice of the economic pie. It's the pan. We must ensure that every Marylander has the opportunity to compete and succeed in this tech-driven world. It's not just about finding a job. It's about finding the right job with a path to greater prosperity for families. Wages have been stagnant for too long, and working families need a raise.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, yet our government still focuses too much of its efforts on recruiting industry giants instead of supporting Maryland-based entrepreneurs and businesses. Maryland cannot place all its bets on trickle-down benefits from large corporations. We've got to build up from the bottom by investing in hard-working people.

Universal computer science education

Computer code is the alphabet that much of the future will be written in. Technology is transforming our economy, and code powers that change. This is a major economic shift that affects nearly every aspect of our economy.

Despite this, only 40% of Maryland's schools offer computer science courses. These schools often map to the wealthiest zip codes. We need to bring universal computer science education to Maryland's K-12 public schools by 2022. We'll do this by investing in our teachers and our schools to make sure that our kids are prepared for the future. For only \$10 million/year, we can make sure our students are on the path to succeeding in the industries of the future.

Bio

Alec grew up in coal country and worked his way through college. Then he taught at Baltimore's Booker T. Washington Middle School where he met his wife, Felicity, who still teaches in Baltimore City public schools today.

Alec co-founded a non-profit start-up, One Economy, to deliver high-speed Internet access and education to low-income communities. One Economy grew into a global organization serving millions of low-income families.

In 2008 he joined Obama campaign convening leaders of technology and innovation to draft policies that promote economic development and government transparency. He was appointed Secretary of State Clinton's Senior Advisor for Innovation, where he was diplomatic lead on Internet Freedom and use of network technologies in conflict zones.

Alec's book "The Industries of the Future" lays out ways that workers can seize new economic opportunities and steps that parents can take to better-prepare their children. It was a New York Times bestseller and is being published in 18 languages. Alec has received recognition including: Top 100 Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy Magazine, Huffington Post's 10 Game-Changers in Politics and the Tribeca Film Festival Disruptive Innovation Award.

Alec now serves as Senior Fellow at Johns Hopkins University and lives in Baltimore with his wife and their three children who attend public school.

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Jim Shea



Education

Jim believes that a good education is the surest ladder of opportunity. As Governor, investing in and bolstering Maryland's public education system will be his top priority, and he has developed a comprehensive plan to create a world-class education system in Maryland. As the former Chair of the University System of Maryland, he has a deep understanding of our state's education institutions, and he will hit the ground running. His plan addresses every area of Maryland's education system, from the cradle to college, to improve the state's education outcomes and return Maryland to number one in the country.

Economic Opportunity

Jim knows that Marylanders need a raise. Jim will invest in Maryland and its people to create an economy that works for everyone. As Governor, he will foster an environment that promotes economic growth and creates good-paying jobs. He will build the economy from the middle out to create, once again, a dynamic middle class so that Marylanders can provide for their families and save for college and retirement. To do so, Jim will build on Maryland's strengths, bolster our job training programs, and prioritize infrastructure projects.

Transportation

Maryland needs an integrated transportation plan for the entire state that gets people to their jobs and schools quickly and reliably. As the inaugural Chair of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, Jim knows that a new vision for transportation will improve the quality of life, drive our economy, and protect our environment. As Governor, he will invest in infrastructure across the state and bring to the task of transforming Maryland's neglected transportation systems the vision, energy, and commitment to create the type of system upon which the state's future strength and prosperity depend.

Bio

Jim Shea is a native of Baltimore, MD and has lived in Baltimore County for the last 40 years with his wife, Barbara, and their family.

He has led public and private organizations across the state, including Chair of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland, Chair of the Empower Baltimore Management Corporation, and Chair of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance.

With a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, Jim was admitted to the bar of District of Columbia and Maryland. He served as Assistant Attorney General of Maryland and is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

He is the past chair of Venable LLP, which has nine offices and more than 600 attorneys throughout the U.S.

Krish Vignarajah



Expanding Educational Opportunity from Cradle to Career

Both of my parents were Baltimore City school educators, and I am the only gubernatorial candidate who attended Maryland public schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. Improving the public education system in Maryland remains my top priority, and my administration will close the multi-billion dollar funding gap and attack systemic inequity by (1) offering tuition free community college, (2) universal access to pre-kindergarten, and (3) 21st century STEM education in every Maryland school -- all while improving free-and-reduced lunch programs and actively combating sexual violence and harassment. No matter your age, income, or address, you should always have access to educational opportunity in Maryland.

Building a Resilient Economy

If Maryland didn't have over 300,000 federal jobs, our state would have the highest unemployment rate in the country, and for those who do find work, most new jobs today pay less than a living wage. My administration will invest in 21st century infrastructure projects to bring low-cost, high-speed internet to every Maryland resident; in transit projects that both alleviate traffic and accelerate the movement of commercial goods in our economy, and in the translation of taxpayer-funded research into new, well-paid jobs for Maryland resident. We're going to create 250,000 new jobs for working families over 4 years because Maryland needs an economy that's both strong and, more importantly, accessible to everyone.

Taking a Stand on the Environment

Under my administration, Maryland would lead the nation in climate action: cutting emissions, improving our resilience to flooding and sea-level rise, and leading in energy efficiency, offshore wind, solar, and other clean energy industries — all of which will create well-paying jobs. Government at the local, state, and federal level has subsidized the energy industry. It is time to direct those resources away from fossil fuels and towards 21st century energy solutions.

Bio

Krish served in the Obama White House as Policy Director for First Lady Michelle Obama and at the State Department as Senior Advisor under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State John Kerry.

She was 9 months old when her family escaped the growing violence in Sri Lanka to come to America. They settled in Baltimore where both parents became teachers in Baltimore public schools. Krish attended public schools herself, and went on to gain a Masters degree in Political Science from Yale, a Masters in Philosophy in International Relations from Oxford, and then a law degree at Yale.

Krish practiced law in Washington DC and clerked for the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit prior to being named Senior Advisor at State Department. She now has her own firm, Generation Impact, a policy firm that specializes in developing strategies for companies and non-profit organizations.

She is married to Collin O'Mara and the couple has a baby daughter.