

1. Qualifications: How do your qualifications and experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

During my four years with the Ehrlich Administration I learned how to collaborate with Democrats to get things done--not by relinquishing my core Republican principles, but by treating the views of others with respect and working toward outcomes that are often able to satisfy both sides. (See my website, www.trentkittleman.com for my background)

2. Priorities: If elected, what would be your priorities for this office?

Enforce the laws that exist rather than passing redundant new laws; revise or eliminate conflicting, counterproductive, and unconstitutional laws and regulations; streamline regulatory paperwork and reporting procedures; create a sensible and stable regulatory environment where businesses and individuals can plan and budget for the foreseeable future. Strengthen charter school legislation.

3. Economy: What initiatives would you support for strengthening Maryland's economy and increasing jobs?

Empower business by streamlining regulations, reducing punitive taxes, and allowing competition to work. Instead, Maryland creates laws that favor one business over others (economic incentives), replaces market choice by favoring one industry over another (off-shore wind energy), and attempts to legislate behavior through taxation (over-taxing sale of yachts to punish "the rich" destroyed jobs).

4. Budget: What are your priorities with respect to expenditures and revenue sources for Maryland?

My top priority is to create a budget that eliminates the 'structural deficit.' It is inherently unfair and selfish for us to spend far in excess of what our generation can afford, and in doing so, creating a future where our children -- more so our grandchildren -- will be burdened with our ever-growing debt and will experience a continued decline in life style.

5. Education: What education policies would you support, particularly with regard to Common Core standards and universal pre-Kindergarten?

Decisions about education are almost always best made, first by parents, and then by local government. We have gradually been losing local control to the State (Maintenance of Effort), and now the Federal government wants to enforce a one-size-fits-all set of standards known as Common Core. This must change. For my thoughts on Universal pre-K, go to my website, www.trentkittleman.com.

6. Redistricting: What changes, if any, would you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines?

Someone once said that we'd get better redistricting results if we gave the job to the first name in the telephone book. Maryland can lay claim to being the most gerrymandered state in the country, and I would favor almost any process geared toward removing politics and retaining community boundaries.

7. Transportation: What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

As Deputy Secretary of Transportation under Ehrlich, the most important issue we faced was the widely held belief that transit can cure congestion. Transit plays a vital role, but does NOT lure people out of their cars. Transit usage remains under 10%, but consumes over 50% of the Transportation Fund. That balance must change. Let's focus on what actually works, not on what we WISH would work

8. Environment: What are the most significant environmental challenges facing Maryland, and what policies would you support to meet those challenges?

Continuing to restore the Chesapeake Bay matters to all Marylanders. It is also critical to repair and maintain the State's infrastructure, much of which is deteriorating. As pipes give way, significant damage can occur to both soil and water. Environmental "stewardship" (a term developed during the ICC approval process) encourages new initiatives to protect the environment.