

Calvin Ball

for

HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Strengthening Our Economy

Last year, the state average for job growth was 1.4%. In Howard County, it was only 0.2%. The wage growth for Maryland was 3%, but only 2% in Howard County. I believe we should be leading the state in growth, not lagging behind. These disparities show there is work to be done when it comes to our local economy.

As your Howard County Executive, I will work to ensure our county's future success by growing economic opportunity for everyone.

On the Howard County Council, I advocated for local workers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. As your County Executive, I will ensure responsible and efficient use of your taxpayer dollars. I want to grow private sector jobs that provide a living wage, protect local workers, and support small businesses and entrepreneurs who improve our community.

Growing the Private Sector

A strong and resilient economy for everyone requires a diverse job market. If we want to grow and succeed as a whole county, we need to be competitive in several areas.

A Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) report from earlier this year shows that some job markets are growing, but others are shrinking. We are losing jobs in the sectors of Information, Trade/Transportation/Utilities, and State Government. We also have plenty of room to grow in sectors like Construction, Local Government, and Manufacturing.

As your County Executive, I will make job growth a priority and will work to keep us competitive across many economic areas. More jobs will be available to everyone who wants to work, regardless of what kind of education you have.

I also believe that no person working full time should live in poverty. That is why I want to increase the number of private sector jobs that pay their employees a living wage. Our economic growth will actually be felt by everyone working in Howard County.

Fostering a Business-Friendly Climate

In order to make Howard County a better place for business, we should grow the tax base and reduce the tax burden on working families and local, small businesses.

Our government must use tax payer dollars responsibly. I strongly support clear, transparent justification for how taxpayer dollars are spent. That is why one of the first things I will do as your County Executive is evaluate all taxes and fees to make government more balanced and efficient.

Currently, our commercial assessable base is about 22%. This is lower than every jurisdiction other than Carroll and Harford counties. As your County Executive, my goal will be to get us over 25% within five years.

We must ask ourselves, are we managing our revenue stream as effectively as possible to meet our needs and reflect our values? How can we ensure that special interests, like developers, pay their fair share to help make our quality of life excellent? These questions must guide us to an economic future this is prudent and fair to all.

Supporting Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

In Maryland, small businesses employ more than half of all private sector workers. Howard County should be doing more to attract new small businesses and support the ones we already have.

We need to re-evaluate our current system of taxes and fees in order to promote growth and efficiency. I will work to improve the predictability of our bureaucracy, as well as eliminating any redundant regulations and antiquated fees.

Howard County deserves a leader that supports entrepreneurs and wants more money in the pockets of those who work hard.

A Bright Future

For years, I have served on the Howard County Council to help our community grow. As your next Howard County Executive, I will continue to strengthen our local economy and support local workers. In order to make Howard County the best place to live, we must make it the best place to do business.

A stronger economy is possible with better leadership, and that comes from being fiscally responsible and holding true to our values, including working hard for hard working people.