THE BANNER

Baltimore County Council District 2

Banner Staff

5/18/2026 9:40 a.m. EDT

2026 Voter Guide: Baltimore County (The Banner)

What's the job: The legislative branch of Maryland's county governments. Responsible for introducing and voting on legislation, approving county spending and providing oversight of county operations. Elected to a four-year term.

Jump to a candidate

Candidates are listed in order of appearance on the ballot

Ruben Amaya (D) | James Amos (R)

Democratic

Name: Ruben Amaya

Ruben Amaya. (Courtesy of Ruben Amaya)

Age: 25

Personal:

Education: Bachelor's degree, Legal Studies, Stevenson University.

Experience: Third vice chair, Maryland Democratic Party; president, Young Democrats of Maryland.

Questionnaire

Q: What is the number one issue in your district, and how do you plan to address it?

A: It's important we look at attracting new residents to our county to help drive up our tax base. We also need to focus on redevelopment that can help attract more business which increases revenue in our county. Fighting for affordable housing will also help boost home ownership and revenue into the county.

Q: What policies would you pursue to address rising costs of living and affordability concerns in Baltimore County?

A: I would fight for affordable housing and redevelopment of the west side of the county. Making sure that we grow the Liberty road corridor is crucial. We also need to turn Security Square into a prosperous mixed-use development as with what we've seen in Owings Mills. I will also advocate for greater incentives to attract businesses to the west side to grow our revenue streams as a county.

Q: Baltimore County is facing a 19,000-unit deficit in housing. How do you plan to address this?

A: We should update zoning laws to allow more mixed-use development. Vacant office buildings and struggling shopping centers can be redeveloped into mixed-income housing communities with retail and green space included. We also need a faster, more transparent permitting and inspection process while still maintaining strong environmental and community standards.

Q: Baltimore County has long faced accusations about backdoor dealing and limited transparency. How do you plan to earn people's trust in local government?

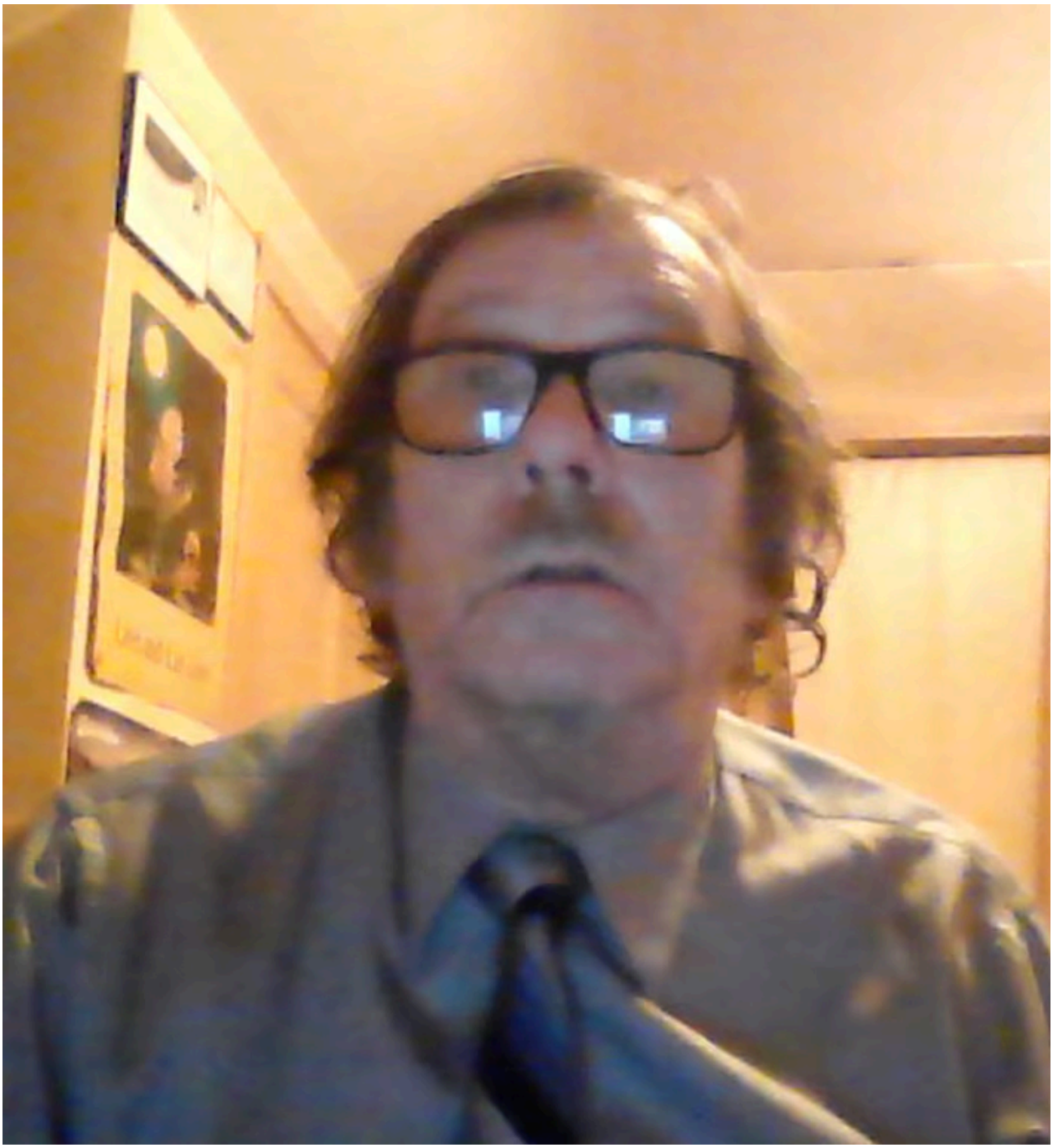
A: It's important that residents feel that their government listens and acts in their interests. It's why our campaign is the only one in our race that is participating in the public financing system, which means we are not allowed to receive money from corporations or PACS. It's also why as a councilman I will advocate for reform that allows for greater transparency and participation from our residents.

Q: As the council expands and becomes more diverse, how will you work to build consensus and collaborate with colleagues who hold different perspectives?

A: I will always work with my colleagues with an open mind. As someone who would be the 1st Latino to be elected to the council, I understand the need to have various perspectives when engaging in policy.

Republican

Name: James Amos



James Amos. (Courtesy of James Amos)

Age: 69

Personal: Widower, one daughter.

Education: Earned a GED; studied at Community College of Baltimore County, University of Baltimore and Widener University Commonwealth Law School. Bachelor’s degree in jurisprudence.

Experience: Member, Baltimore County Republican Central Committee; lieutenant, Maryland Capitol Police; staff sergeant, Maryland Army National Guard.

Questionnaire

Q: What is the number one issue in your district, and how do you plan to address it?

A: Stopping the Woodlawn data center. Central Woodlawn is no place for an AI data center.

Q: What policies would you pursue to address rising costs of living and affordability concerns in Baltimore County?

A: Stop spending so much money. The county needs return to its core functions. Cut fees and regulations to save county taxpayers money and facilitate commerce. I believe cuts in both local and property taxes should be goals for the future, but at the present tax incentives may be necessary, and saving and revitalizing Security Square Mall is of the utmost importance. People need good paying jobs including local jobs.

Q: Baltimore County is facing a 19,000-unit deficit in housing. How do you plan to address this?

A: I believe there are 2 major problems. First are multi-national corporations and investors buying up property and renting it as subsidized housing. A moratorium on section 8 may be necessary. Second mass immigration has been a problem in recent years. We should be cooperating with federal authorities on this matter, not trying to ignore or obstruct them. Finally,

there must be adequate infrastructure in place for new housing.

Q: Baltimore County has long faced accusations about backdoor dealing and limited transparency. How do you plan to earn people's trust in local government?

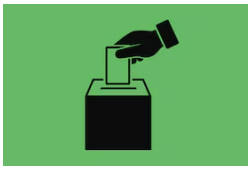
A: I am a strong believer in transparency. Open meetings laws must be enforced; however confidential information must be protected. I strongly support legislation giving the Inspector General oversight of BCPS and will lobby for this in Annapolis until it becomes law.

Q: As the council expands and becomes more diverse, how will you work to build consensus and collaborate with colleagues who hold different perspectives?

A: I can get along with anybody as long as they are honest and kind. But I have dealt with difficult people over my career and even received training on that subject. My neighborhood is about 75 percent minority and my daughter is biracial. Not only is her mother African American, so was my late wife. My extended family also has a diversity of nationalities and denominations.

Show candidates who did not advance past June 2026 Primary

VOTER GUIDE 2026



Key Races

Statewide

US House

State S