THE BANNER

Baltimore County Council District 3

Banner Staff

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

(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

Makeda Scott (D) | Chike Anyanwu (R)

Democratic

Name: Makeda Scott

Makeda Scott. (Friends of Makeda Scott)

Age: 54

Personal: Married mother of three.

Education: Bachelor's degree, communications, St. Augustine's University.

Experience: Director, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City; congressional staffer board member and chairwoman of the Baltimore County Board of Education; president of the Woodholme Elementary School Parent Teacher Association.

Questionnaire

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

A: As I've been knocking on doors and speaking with residents across the new 3rd District, the number one issue I consistently hear is the lack of responsive constituent services. People do not feel heard, and they don't believe their concerns are being addressed in a timely or effective way.

This breakdown shows up in everyday issues, unresolved road repairs, drainage problems, and frustration with abandoned properties and stalled redevelopment projects, like the former Giant in New Town. My approach is simple: constituent services will be the foundation of my office. I will implement a clear system to track and resolve concerns, with defined timelines and regular follow-up, so no request falls through the cracks. I will also hold consistent office hours and community meetings to ensure residents have direct access to my team and me. Residents should never feel ignored by their own government. My priority is to build an office that is responsive,

accountable, and committed to delivering results so every voice is heard, and every concern is addressed.

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

A: Affordability is about the total cost of living, not just one issue. My priority is to make Baltimore County a place where working families, seniors, and young people can afford not only to live, but to thrive. Right now, the county is becoming less affordable for the very families who want to build their lives here, just like my husband and I did. To change that, we must be intentional about lowering everyday costs. I will support efforts to attract and retain grocery stores in underserved areas and invest in small businesses so residents have access to fresh, affordable food. I will also advocate for expanded and reliable public transit, including better bus connectivity to job centers, to reduce transportation costs. We must continue investing in strong public schools, career and technical education, and youth employment programs so families don't have to choose between affordability and quality education.

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

A: Baltimore County's 19,000-unit housing deficit requires a targeted, data-driven response, not a one-size-fits-all solution. As a councilwoman, my first step will be to analyze data from the Department of Housing and Community Development to identify where the gaps are most severe. I will pursue a multi-pronged strategy. First, I will prioritize county and state housing funds to incentivize affordable and mixed-income housing, especially near transit and job centers, while leveraging public-private partnerships and requiring meaningful affordability in new developments. Second, we must protect current residents.

I will support expanding rental assistance, preserving existing affordable housing, and preventing displacement as new development occurs. Third, I will advocate for smarter land-use and zoning policies that allow responsible density and redevelopment, while ensuring community voices are central to the planning process. Finally, I will work with state and regional partners to secure resources and align strategies to address this broader housing crisis. This challenge demands urgency, coordination, and accountability. I am committed to delivering solutions so every resident has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, regardless of zip code.

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: Baltimore County residents deserve a government that is transparent and accountable, not one where decisions feel predetermined or made behind closed doors. Trust must be earned, and it starts with changing how government operates. I will prioritize proactive communication by holding regular town halls, maintaining an active social media presence, sending consistent newsletters, and hosting "Council on the Corner" events. Residents should know what decisions are being considered while they are still in progress, not after they're finalized. Meaningful community engagement is essential. I will ensure early input on major development, zoning, and budget decisions, and make sure that feedback is reflected in final outcomes. I will also offer training so residents understand how to effectively engage with their government. In addition, I will push for greater transparency by improving public access to proposals, timelines, and decision-making criteria, so residents clearly understand what is being proposed and how it impacts their communities. Trust is built through consistent action, not words alone. My commitment as a councilwoman is to make

government more open, responsive, and accountable to the people it serves.

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 have a proven track record of working in diverse environments with people from different backgrounds, perspectives, and ideologies. That experience has taught me that effective leadership is not about agreement on every issue; it's about finding common ground and moving forward together. Building consensus starts with mutual respect. I believe in listening to understand, not just to respond, so we can fully consider the "why" behind each position. It is important to focus on shared goals. We may differ on approach, but we often agree on outcomes, strong schools, safe communities, and effective constituent services. I will work with my colleagues to identify points of alignment and build solutions. My experience on the Baltimore County Board of Education, especially serving as Chair, required me to bring together individuals with different viewpoints to make complex decisions. I intend to work on the Council in a collaborative, solutions-oriented fashion to deliver results.

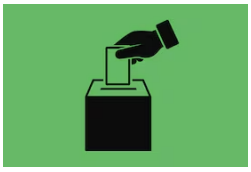
Republican

Name: Chike Anyanwu

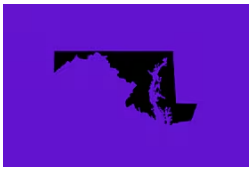
Candidate did not respond to The Banner's voter guide questionnaire.

Show candidates who did not advance past June 2026 Primary

VOTER GUIDE 2026



Key Races



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