THE BANNER

Baltimore County executive

Banner Staff

5/18/2026 9:41 a.m. EDT

2026 Voter Guide: Baltimore County (The Banner)

What's the job: The chief executive in Maryland's largest counties. The executive proposes the county budget and oversees services and agencies, such as police, public works, and planning and development. Elected to a four-year term.

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Candidates are listed in order of appearance on the ballot

Julian Jones (D) | Patrick V. Dyer (R)

Democratic

Name: Julian Jones

Julian Jones. (Julian Jones campaign)

Age: 63

Personal: Married, three children and two grandchildren.

Education: Bachelor's degree, information systems management, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; associate's degree, Baltimore City Community College.

Experience: Baltimore County Council member, District 4, December 2014-present; county council chair four times: 2018-2019 and 2021-2025.

Questionnaire

Q: How will you address the rising cost of living and affordability concerns in Baltimore County?

A: First I want to address rising energy bills by giving Baltimore County more control over how power is purchased through Community Choice Aggregation, allowing the County to procure energy on behalf of residents and leveraging that to expand local generation, creating jobs and keeping our dollars in the County.

Second, we must address the cost of housing by increasing the stock of housing through faster permitting and smart growth development like the mixed-use hubs I have brought to my district in Metro Center, Mill Station and Foundry Row. Finally, I will be laser focused on growing our economy in a way that raises the income of the people living in the county. I believe our Department of Economic Development can be expanded with a renewed mission to aggressively attract businesses, support the businesses we have, and ensure development creates opportunity in every community by being a strong partner to our small and minority-owned businesses.

Q: What do you think the county spends money on that it should not, and what do you think the county needs to invest more in? Is there any situation in which you would consider raising county taxes?

A: Too often on the County Council I see us rob Peter to pay Paul. Residents expect their tax dollars to be spent responsibly. I have spoken out against backroom decisions that increased compensation and pensions without transparency or clear public benefit. Even though the legislation I put forward to undo full-time pay on part-time work on the council was rejected by my fellow councilmembers, I will continue to oppose spending that does not deliver value to residents.

I believe we need to invest in our public safety, our schools, and our infrastructure, because these targeted investments support our long-term growth. Making certain that this is the best place for people to live, work, and do business is key to growing our population and expanding our tax base. That is the best path we have to ensuring we have the resources to pay for all the services the people of our County expect and deserve, rather than taking measures that suppress our growth such as raising taxes or cutting services.

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: Too often, decisions in Baltimore County government have been made without the transparency and public input residents deserve. I have not hesitated to speak out against my colleagues when they made decisions behind closed doors or took actions I believe came at the expense of the people. I'm also proud to have passed legislation requiring the disclosure of all taxpayer dollars spent on legal settlements, because

residents deserve to know how their money is being used and where accountability is needed.

As County Executive, I will take a radically different approach. Major decisions, contracts, and legislation will be shared with the public before they are finalized, not after. I will also carry on the practice of holding regular town halls, open forums, and direct communication to ensure residents are treated as partners in all major decisions. I also want to empower residents to track the flow of their taxpayer dollars with public-facing dashboards so they can see spending and outcomes in real time. In a Jones administration, the people can be assured there will be no backroom deals and no surprises. This will be a government that is open and answerable to the people it serves.

Q: One in four Baltimore County residents is a senior citizen. What will you do to represent the interests of our aging population?

A: I have made it a priority to visit senior centers across the County, spend time with residents in their homes, and listen directly to older adults about what they need to remain rooted in the communities they helped build.

While lowering energy bills and stabilizing the cost of housing will benefit all residents, I support targeted relief for our seniors in the way of tax credits for housing and utility assistance. I also believe we need to invest in aging-in-place support such as home modifications, in-home services, and expanded CountyRide so that people can stay safely and independently in their homes. It is also critical we improve our access to health care and services. I will strengthen partnerships with community clinics, expand transportation options, and make it easier for seniors to navigate county services without unnecessary barriers. I believe we also need to

do more to ensure our emergency response system and infrastructure are reliable amid extreme weather and power outages that are becoming more and more common. That means investing in community resilience centers and specialized emergency services so seniors are never left without a place to turn in an emergency.

Q: What are your solutions to manage crime, or the perception of a rise in crime, as well as the safety and well-being of county residents?

A: Today, law enforcement is too often asked to respond to challenges that are better handled by trained health professionals. I will establish a 24/7 crisis response center, double the number of mobile crisis units, and improve call triage so individuals experiencing mental health or substance use crises receive the right care while allowing police to focus on serious public safety threats, lowering response times, and improving clearance rates.

At the same time, we must fully support our police, fire, and EMS professionals. That means investing in staffing, training, and modern facilities to improve response times and ensure our first responders have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively. Accountability is also essential to building trust. I will strengthen the Police Accountability Board by ensuring it has staffing, independent counsel, and access to data necessary to have meaningful oversight. We also need to make sure our public spaces feel safe. That means expanding positive spaces and opportunities for young people, increasing visible foot patrols, and ensuring our parks, commercial areas, and neighborhoods are well-maintained. Safety is not just about responding to crime, it is about preventing it and creating environments where people feel secure.

Republican

Name: Patrick V. Dyer

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

Show candidates who did not advance past June 2026 Primary

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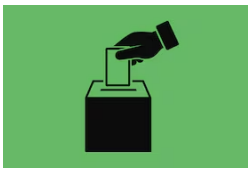

Key Races

Statewide

US House

State S