

Seeking Political Science Interns for progressive grassroots campaign for Baltimore County Council, District One.

Position Availability: Ongoing from Summer of 2021-Summer 2022

Time Commitment: Varied based on specific internship requirements. UMBC resides within the district making for easy scheduling while classes are in session.

Duties may include:

- Developing Campaign Literature including: website content, print material, phone banking and canvasser scripts.
- Voter registration with the goal of increasing voter turnout from 2018 gubernatorial campaign.
- Interfacing with Campaign Platform to develop robust voter identification program (analyzing voter data to identify individuals most likely to vote and identifying issues of interest to them)
- Analysis of Precinct information from previous council races to determine best voter outreach strategies
- Assist Candidate with outreach to up & down ballot office holders.
- Assist in developing an umbrella organization connecting district one neighborhood associations to improve advocacy outcomes. Part of this effort will be to educate the community on the importance of the CZMP and Master Plan processes in Baltimore County.
- Explore solutions to county problems by working with advocacy groups to develop potential legislation.
- Writing position papers for PAC questionnaires
- Volunteer coordination/outreach
- Field Operations: Door knocking with the candidate, engaging voters on issues important to the campaign, Delivering Yard Signs and installing larger signs
- Attending events to assist with logistics and creating content for social media.

Issues of importance to the campaign:

Land Use issues/Sustainable Economic Development

1. Smart Growth: Developing around mass transit & redeveloping commercial corridors.
2. Promote walkability and specifically connections between UMBC & its neighbors
3. Promoting mixed income housing to dismantle decades long unfair housing practices.
4. Reforming the CZMP process to a) remove by right designations of new zoning classifications, instead requiring the actual project be specifically listed in the request and b) to create a single tax on any increased land value that happens as a result of CZMP upzoning
5. Maintain adequate developer impact fees to pay for services relied on by citizens.
6. Amend legislation that allows commercial developers to develop their parking lots, thereby reducing redevelopment in sustainable/equitable ways.
7. Reinstate commercial stormwater management fees to foster redevelopment and improve environmental conditions at previously developed areas.

Campaign Finance Reform

1. Draw attention to unfair influence of the developer lobby in Baltimore County
2. Suggest Solutions/draft legislation to fund recent public financing initiatives.
3. Role model grassroots fundraising focusing on small in district donations.

Quality of Life Issues

- Promote open space and recreational amenities by setting and creating open space in lieu of fees when development cannot provide onsite open space requirements. This is required by law and currently not being done.
- Code Enforcement to build our tax base and protect neighborhoods.
- Address Traffic Congestion via adhering to progressive planning principles

Social Justice

- Creating opportunities to bring people from diverse backgrounds together during the campaign and once in office
- The campaign is committed to not taking money from Police Unions, nor is it interested in seeking their endorsement. Instead, the campaign wants to work in open and transparent ways, simultaneously with law enforcement and members of the BLM/Social Justice community to bring about meaningful change through institutional reforms.
- Talk openly about the County's history that is tied to "White Flight" from the city and unjust affordable housing practices. Only by understanding our history can we hope to build a better future for everyone.

Environmental Protection

- Invasive plant eradication: English Ivy, Multiflora Rose, Bareberry, etc.
- Stormwater Management/Need to create grants for homeowner rain gardens. Baltimore County is the only local municipality that does not do this.

- Addressing ailing sewer infrastructure to prevent sewage back ups in our older communities and prevent wastewater from leaking into the Chesapeake Watershed.
- Updating building codes to promote incentives for sustainable building practices including greywater recycling, green roofs, etc.
- Promoting carless development to reduce carbon emissions.
- Limiting development within the Loch Raven Reservoir watershed to protect our water supply.
- Work against environmental injustices that disproportionately affects marginalized communities.

About the candidate:

Paul Dongarra is a local business owner and land use/political activist who lives in Catonsville. He has a deep love of nature, history, the visual and performing arts and progressive politics.

With a long personal history of caring for the environment, advocating for affordable housing, community based land use decisions, campaign finance reform and open space, Dongarra has a consistently demonstrated history of caring for the community donating to efforts to end homelessness, promote equality, and fight hunger in the community. Dongarra sees this campaign as a continuation of his work to improve the community.

He has been responsible for two separate successful prosecutions of violations of campaign finance law. One case involved illegal straw donations by a developer to our current councilperson. By bringing this to light, Dongarra supported efforts to close a loophole that allowed developers to skirt campaign finance laws by donating through different LLC entities. Dongarra opened his home to the 2016 Bernie Sanders campaign where he encouraged and helped train newly inspired activists to door knock for Bernie.

Interested Parties.

More information please contact: Paul Dongarra, 410-733-6077 or paul@tablefieldcatering.com

A google form is currently being developed and will be attached to this for ease of applying to the internship.