



Atterbeary

Vanessa Atterbeary - County Executive Candidate

Question One

Do you believe the documented racial disparities summarized above warrant County-level intervention? If not, why not? If so, please describe

- What specific actions would you take in your first year in office to investigate root causes?
- What measurable outcomes would you expect to be achieved by the end of your term?

Answer. Yes. The documented disparities clearly warrant County-level action. The data shows a persistent, multi-year pattern, not an isolated anomaly: Black residents are approximately 20% of Howard County's population but represent 2–3 times their population share in adult arrests and up to 3–4 times their share in juvenile arrests and referrals.

As Vice-Chair of the Judiciary Committee in Maryland's House of Delegates and the leader in passing the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, I have already worked to confront disparities in policing at the state level. That experience taught me that data without accountability does not produce change. In my first year as County Executive, I would fund and launch an independent third-party review of policing outcomes, including arrests, traffic stops, use of force, and juvenile referrals. I would also require quarterly public updates so the community is not left waiting years for answers.

By the end of my term, I would expect measurable progress: a public baseline,

annual reporting requirements, and clear reductions in unjust disparities. This is about ensuring that public safety is fair, data-driven, and trusted by every community.

Question Two

Please describe your support for legislation in Howard County requiring annual public reporting of data (including race) concerning policing outcomes, including arrests, juvenile arrest, and use of force data (like Montgomery County's law).

Would you urge the County Council to pass this legislation and sign the legislation into law if passed?

Answer: I strongly support legislation requiring annual public reporting of policing outcome data, including race and ethnicity.

At the state level, I led the House of Delegates in passing reforms that increased transparency, and I created the local Police Accountability Boards in all jurisdictions through legislation. But what we are seeing in Howard County makes clear that transparency cannot be optional or incomplete.

I would urge the County Council to pass legislation requiring annual reporting of arrests, juvenile outcomes, use of force, and other key indicators.

Transparency is not anti-police, it is essential to building trust and improving outcomes. When communities can see the data, we can have honest conversations about what is working and what must change

Question Three

Please describe your support for a study to be conducted by an independent 3rd party expert in police accountability matters to identify the root causes of the racial disparities in Howard County LEA outcomes and a remediation plan to eliminate unjust disparities

that may be found.

Would you place funding in the budget to conduct such a study and commit to making the results public as soon as the study is completed? Would you commit to meaningful implementation of remediation strategies upon recommendation in the study?

Answer: I strongly support funding an independent third-party study and making the results fully public.

During my time in the General Assembly, I led the House of Delegates in passing the most sweeping police reform in the country, at that time, because I believe accountability systems must be credible and independent. That same principle applies here.

The data shows persistent disparities over multiple years, and both the Police Accountability Board and law enforcement agencies need to identify why those disparities exist. That is precisely when independent analysis is necessary.

As County Executive, I will:

- Fund the study
- Require public release of findings
- Establish a clear implementation plan with timelines and benchmarks
- Accountability does not end with a report — it requires action.

Question Four

Please describe your thoughts on improving transparency and accountability in Law Enforcement in Howard County

Answer: Improving transparency and accountability requires strong systems, not just good intentions.

I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to Chair the Workgroup on Police Reform and Accountability - which created legislation and statewide reforms that established the Police Accountability Boards and new standards for oversight. I believe community trust depends on transparency and accountability at every level of government.

As County Executive, I will:

- Ensure the Police Accountability Board is fully staffed and functioning effectively
- Require regular public reporting and analysis of policing data
- Strengthen collaboration between law enforcement and community organizations
- Make data accessible and understandable to the public

We can support law enforcement while also demanding accountability. In fact, those goals go hand in hand. Communities are safer when policing is transparent, fair, and trusted.