

Question 8:

By one accounting, the county has a \$200M backlog in repairs of public stormwater management infrastructure. Failed public conveyance systems increase the likelihood of flooding and pollutants negatively impacting water quality in groundwater and streams. What will you do to eliminate the backlog?

Question 8 responses

The following four candidates, listed alphabetically, are running in the Democratic primary:

James Kitchin

We need to treat this backlog of repairs to our public stormwater management infrastructure as a top priority and approach it systematically - similarly to how the Pittman Administration took on the backlog of school construction projects that existed when he first took office. This means using the county's Capital Budget program and bonding authority to make these needed repairs. This is really a matter of prioritizing this work amongst the other competing interests, and I will be sure to do that

Kyle Nembhard

I believe this is related to my answer in question 7. I would put forward a funding strategy to direct revenues toward addressing this backlog in the most effective and strategic way possible. I would also leverage pending development proposals in these areas so that those developers pay their fair share when addressing the backlog.

Allison Pickard

Over the last several years, the County has built a stormwater management program that is finally operating on a fiscally sustainable path. The key now is maintaining that progress consistently over time rather than attempting unrealistic one-time spending surges that the County cannot sustain. The backlog accumulated over decades and took approximately 5–6 years to get the current program back on track. We should continue prioritizing repairs based on risk to public safety, flooding potential, and water quality impacts, while steadily working through the inventory of failing infrastructure. As inflation affects construction and maintenance costs, modest annual adjustments in the range of 3–5% may be necessary

over the next four years to maintain purchasing power and keep projects moving forward. I do not believe the answer is a massive cash infusion or dramatic restructuring of the program. The County now has a workable framework in place; the priority should be disciplined execution, predictable funding, and continuing to chip away at the backlog in a responsible and sustainable manner

My goal: eliminate the backlog within eight years, with measurable annual progress reported to the public each year.

Pete Smith

I am proud to have voted for Anne Arundel's stormwater remediation fee, which will continue to be the primary vehicle to address our stormwater management infrastructure. We must continue to use this revenue source effectively to build retention facilities, reverse stream erosion, and reduce the nutrient levels that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. But we can do more, and that is why I am actively promoting Public-Private Partnerships to leverage private sector funds for public projects, including environmental initiatives.

Dave Crawford – Running Unopposed in the Republican Primary

The \$200M stormwater backlog is not just an infrastructure problem — it is a public health, flood risk, and Chesapeake Bay water quality crisis. Failed stormwater systems send untreated pollutants directly into our waterways and contribute to the flooding that damages family homes.

I will address the backlog through: (1) A dedicated Stormwater Infrastructure Repair Fund, seeded by restored impact fee revenue and federal Clean Water Act grants; (2) a triage and prioritization system that ranks repairs by flood risk, water quality impact, and community vulnerability — so the worst problems are fixed first; (3) bundling repair projects for cost efficiency rather than addressing them one-off; (4) leveraging Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund and Bay Restoration Fund to offset county costs; and (5) a public dashboard tracking repair progress so residents can see exactly which projects are funded, underway, and completed.