Baltimore City | Question I

November 3, 2026 General Election | Official ballot label: QUESTION I - CHARTER AMENDMENT - BALTIMORE BABY FUND

What the question proposes

Question I would establish a new, separate Baltimore Baby Fund within city government. Money could be used only to enhance the economic stability of Baltimore City families with newborn children. The Charter amendment creates a dedicated financing structure; it does not, by itself, specify that every qualifying household automatically receives a particular payment.

How the fund would be financed

Each annual City budget would have to contribute an amount calculated as $0.03 per $100 of the City's total taxable property value. That equals 0.03% of the taxable property base, or $300 per $1 million of taxable assessed value in the aggregate funding formula.

Illustration only: if the relevant citywide taxable property base were $40 billion, the formula would require an annual budget contribution of $12 million. This is a hypothetical calculation, not a verified estimate of the actual City contribution.

The fund could also receive grants and donations. The question does not expressly impose a new 3-cent tax on individual homeowners; it sets a mandatory annual budget allocation using the taxable property base as the measuring stick. Officials would need to fund the allocation within the overall budget.

Restrictions and protections

Baby Fund money could not replace funding for newborn children already included in the current City budget. Money remaining at year-end would stay in the fund until used for the authorized purpose; the City could not transfer it to unrelated programs.

The exact benefit design, eligibility rules, administration and distribution procedures would depend on implementing law and program decisions.

Voting FOR (approval)

The Baltimore Baby Fund would be created and the City would be required to make the annual contribution described above. Grants and donations could supplement the contribution. Funds would be legally reserved for helping families with newborns.

Possible effects include a predictable dedicated source of support for new families and reduced discretion to redirect those funds. The budget obligation could require spending tradeoffs elsewhere or other revenue decisions, depending on the City's finances. Approval does not guarantee a specified cash benefit per baby.

Voting AGAINST (denial)

The proposed Baby Fund and mandatory Charter-level contribution would not be established. Existing newborn and family programs could continue subject to their own budgets and laws.

The City would retain greater flexibility over how to allocate the funds that otherwise would have been committed by the amendment; a future ordinance or ballot measure could still propose similar assistance.

Questions to consider

Who would qualify as a family with a newborn? Would support be cash, services, or both? How would administrators prevent duplication and measure economic outcomes? What would the required annual allocation mean for other budget priorities?

Sources: Maryland State Board of Elections, 2026 ballot questions: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/ballot_questions.html ; The Baltimore Banner, 2026 Baltimore City ballot-question guide: https://www.thebanner.com/voter-guide/2026/baltimore-city/baltimore-city-ballot-questions-L4NDEPL6YVF2JOQAXAK3JF5TOQ/