



# Charles County

## 2018 General Election Voters' Guide

*Published by*

### League of Women Voters of Maryland Education Fund

#### About this *Voters' Guide*

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland Education Fund. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare to vote and includes all candidates who appear on the November ballot. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

All candidates were asked to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for the same office were asked identical questions. Responses from candidates who will appear on the ballot are printed exactly as submitted to the LWV. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. All responses were limited to 400 characters and any additional material was cut off at that point. If a candidate did not respond by the **September 15, 2018** deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

Additional information on the candidates is available at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org), which has any updates received after the **September 15, 2018** deadline. Candidate websites provide additional biographical and policy information. If the candidate submitted a campaign website, it is listed under her/his name.

The League assumes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

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## Three Ways to Vote

### Early Voting

**Where:**

1. La Plata Firehouse  
911 Washington Avenue  
La Plata, MD 20646
2. Glenelg Neighborhood Center  
4900 Kirkcaldy Court  
Waldorf, MD 20602

**When:** **10:00 am to 8:00 pm** from Thursday, **October 25, 2018** through and including Thursday, **November 1, 2018**. If you vote by Early Voting, you cannot vote by absentee ballot or on Election Day.

Charles County Board of Elections  
Street Address: 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 908, La Plata MD 20646-0908  
Phone: 301-934-8972

### **By Mail (Absentee Ballot)**

You may request that an absentee ballot be mailed to you or sent via an email link. Apply online or by printing out an application from the State Board of Elections website:

<http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/absentee.html>

An application for an absentee ballot must be received by your local Board of Elections

- Tuesday, October 30, 2018, if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax; or
- Friday, November 2, 2018, if you want to download your ballot from the State's website (you must still print and mail the ballot - you cannot return it by email).

If you hand deliver your ballot, you must deliver it to your local board of elections by 8 pm on election day. If you mail your ballot, the envelope must be postmarked on or before election day (November 6, 2018) and received by your local board of elections by 10 am on November 16, 2018.

**NOTE:** *If you request an absentee ballot, you will not be permitted to cast an ordinary ballot during Early Voting or on Election Day - you will be provided a provisional ballot that will be counted only if your absentee ballot is not received.*

**ELECTION DAY VOTING:** 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2018

## **ELECTION INFORMATION**

*Don't know your polling place? Not sure if you are registered?*

Visit – <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/votersearch>

Maryland State Board of Elections

Hours: 8 - 5 Monday - Friday

P.O. Box 6486, Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

Phone: 1-800-222-VOTE (8683)

Toll Free: 800-222-8683

Maryland Relay Service: 800-735-2258

*Rumors about the election? Visit – [http://www.elections.state.md.us/press\\_room/rumor\\_control.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/press_room/rumor_control.html)*

Offices and candidates are listed in the order they appear on the ballot.

Websites and social media information are those provided to the Board of Elections unless updated by candidate.

## **Statewide Offices**

### **Governor / Lt Governor**

**GOVERNOR DUTIES:** The Governor is the chief executive officer of Maryland and appoints judges to the state courts and the heads of statewide departments. The Governor also makes other appointments as provided by the Maryland Constitution or by law and proposes the annual operating and capital budgets to the legislature. The Governor may veto legislation passed by the legislature.

**SALARY:** \$180,000 per year.

**TERM:** Four years, limit of two consecutive terms.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide as a team with the Lt. Gov.

**LT. GOVERNOR DUTIES:** The Lieutenant Governor assists the Governor and is elected jointly on a ballot with the gubernatorial candidate. The Lieutenant Governor fills the office of Governor in case of death, resignation, or disability and carries out specific duties assigned by the Governor.

**SALARY:** \$149,500 per year.

**WEBSITE:** see [Maryland Manual Online](http://www.marylandmanualonline.com)

### **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of Governor?

**BUDGET:** What are your priorities for the state budget, particularly regarding education and transportation?

**REDISTRICTING:** What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**HEALTH CARE:** What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities on issues not covered by the other questions?

## **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Larry Hogan / Boyd K. Rutherford**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.LarryHogan.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/LarryHogan>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/LarryHogan](http://twitter.com/LarryHogan)

**Campaign Instagram:** [instagram:@LarryHogan](http://instagram.com/@LarryHogan)

No response received by deadline.

### **Ben Jealous / Susan Turnbull**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://benjealous.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/benjealous/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/BenJealous](http://twitter.com/BenJealous)

**Campaign Instagram:** [@BenJealous](http://instagram.com/@BenJealous)

**Campaign Email:** [sydney@benjealous.com](mailto:sydney@benjealous.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (904) 891-1843

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've been a partner in a business or ran large advocacy organizations since I was 26 years old. As a businessman, I've helped to grow small businesses in Maryland and across the nation. While leading the NAACP, I was named Marylander of the Year for my pivotal roles in abolishing the death penalty, passing the Maryland DREAM Act, helping pass marriage equality, and expanding voting rights.

**BUDGET:** As a businessman, I'll also make sure our transportation policies also encourage economic growth and help to create good jobs. We don't have a money problem when it comes to education, we have a priority problem and we need a governor who is willing to make education a number one priority. We will fully fund our schools and make sure lottery and casino revenues supplement education funding.

**REDISTRICTING:** I believe that Maryland should lead the fight on redistricting reform in a fair and non-partisan manner that does not indefinitely hand control of the House of Representatives to Republicans. Redistricting compacts such as the one passed by the Maryland legislature and vetoed by Hogan are a fair solution to increase the accountability of Congress to the voters and reduce gerrymandering.

**ENVIRONMENT:** My vision in regards to the environment brings together the economy, civil rights, and public health. I will build on the surge of clean energy jobs and put our state on a path to 100% clean energy well before 2050 and reverse Trump's attempts to kill the progress we've made on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. Bill McKibben, Friends of the Earth Action, and 350.org have all endorsed my campaign.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I've dedicated my life to service and I have a long track record of securing progressive victories in our state. Growing up as the child of a biracial Maryland couple who were forced to leave the state in order to legally marry, Marylanders know I'll stand up to Trump's hateful attacks on our environment which disproportionately harms marginalized communities and his attacks on our public schools.

**HEALTH CARE:** As a businessman and civil rights leader, I believe we have to stop rising healthcare premiums and drug costs from bankrupting our families, small businesses and seniors. As governor, I'll work for a Medicare For All system which will provide affordable care for all, help our small businesses grow, and provide more tools to stop pharmaceutical companies from spiking drug costs on our seniors.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Maryland's economy is ranked near the bottom for this region and our wages are flat. As a businessman, I know how to create good paying jobs and I'll ensure we get our healthcare costs under control so that families keep more money in their pockets and small businesses can grow. I'll also ensure more capital goes to entrepreneurs instead of large corporations. Learn more at [www.benjealous.com](http://www.benjealous.com).

### **Shawn Quinn / Christina Smith**

**Libertarian Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.citizens4quinn.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/ShawnQuinn>

**Campaign Email:** [citizens4quinn@outlook.com](mailto:citizens4quinn@outlook.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (443) 684-0924

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Shawn Quinn has lived a lifetime doing the types of jobs that real people do, not politicians. This gives him a street-level view of life that somebody only used to the "big picture" will miss. Shawn served for twenty years in the United States Navy. Shawn Quinn worked in law enforcement for five years. He has seen firsthand what an impersonal government does to the people.

**BUDGET:** Shawn Quinn plans to drastically reduce the income tax within his first two years of office. These tax cuts will be paid for by reducing the role of government in areas best handled by private-public partnerships. Shawn wants to achieve cost savings in education by leveraging technology throughout. This includes everything from computers in the classroom up to entire virtual schools.

**REDISTRICTING:** Shawn Quinn wants to give all citizens a voice at the state and federal level. Lines shouldn't be drawn just so that the party in power can stay in power. Take the power to draw boundaries away from partisans and politicians. Draw the lines algorithmically using fixed rules. This takes human bias away from drawing boundary lines as much as possible.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The health of the Chesapeake Bay is the number one environmental problem facing Maryland. It is our most important resource. The entire ecology of the state flows into and from the Chesapeake Bay. Shawn plans to go after polluters directly. Individuals and businesses polluting the Chesapeake Bay or damaging the environment in any way will be held financially responsible.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Discrimination in any form is bad for all of us. When a person is not allowed to live to their full we all miss out of all of their possible achievements. There are already laws on the books to address discrimination. If somebody has an idea to improve an existing law or policy then Shawn will weigh the merits of each proposal individually. Every change will be looked at for its benefit to people.

**HEALTH CARE:** The biggest health crisis facing Maryland and the nation is the opioid epidemic. People need help. People are scared to get help. They have seen what the government does to nonviolent drug offenders. We need to completely end the War on Drugs in Maryland. We will turn the government into a partner instead of an enforcer. We will stop ruining lives by people to prison over a chemical or a plant.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Politics in Annapolis needs a cultural change. When Shawn Quinn is Governor, there will be no special favors. When Shawn Quinn is Governor, he will make our legislature answer to the people every year. Not just every four years. Shawn Quinn will break the two-party agenda here in Maryland. Shawn cares what people think. People are more important than philosophy or politics or policy.

## Ian Schlakman / Annie Chambers

**Green Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://schlakman.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/IanSchlakman>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/ischlakman](http://twitter.com/ischlakman)

**Campaign Instagram:** [instagram.com/ischlakman](http://instagram.com/ischlakman)

**Campaign Email:** [ian@schlakman.com](mailto:ian@schlakman.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 996-4848

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I believe that people are no longer willing to limit their choices, They want new leadership. I am a small business owner and a community organizer. My running mate and I are people who see the need for new systems and a new vision for our economy. I envision programs that will make Maryland a national leader and I will represent Marylanders who want to live in a state that wants justice for all.

**BUDGET:** We'll create programs for the well-being of all Marylanders and create universal, single-payer health care for all Marylanders. We'll raise taxes on millionaires and use the new tax revenue and invest in the well-being of all Marylanders. Public school funding should be allocated according to the needs of disadvantaged students, We'll prioritize public transit over the construction of new roads.

**REDISTRICTING:** We support creating a non-partisan commission to draw congressional & legislative district lines. Gov. O'Malley's defense of drawing Democrat-friendly districts in 2010 is a stain on Maryland's commitment to fair elections. As a technology consultant I know how to utilize resources to solve problems. We need an open dialogue on using technology & data analysis to create fair legislative districts.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Our largest environmental challenge is re-prioritizing the health of our environment. The health of our communities are top priority, & we'll put an end to harmful activities by setting & enforcing

limits on pollution & environmental use. We must set a goal of fueling our needs through 100% renewable sources, & then put Marylanders to work building the infrastructure we need to get the job done.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Our priorities of creating a universal, single-payer health system, free tuition to public colleges and universities, a basic income, and jobs guarantee are all designed to address discrimination by giving Marylanders the tools they need to be successful regardless of the privileges or lack of privilege they possess based on their race, gender, religion, disability, or wealth.

**HEALTH CARE:** The most significant health challenge facing Maryland is ending our existing model of employer-based, private insurance & transitioning to a model in which health care is recognized as a human right. We will create a universal, single-payer health care system by funding adequate medical care for every resident of Maryland. We'll also fight to make sure our state produces clean & healthy energy.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** From urban to rural areas we're hearing that residents are concerned that in a wealthy state like ours basic services like schools and fire departments are facing cuts. This is why we're calling for a millionaires tax to close our communities budget gaps. We will continue to post our priorities to [www.schlakman.com/issues](http://www.schlakman.com/issues) as Marylanders continue to ask us to respond to their top priorities.

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## Comptroller

**DUTIES:** The Comptroller is the financial officer of Maryland, responsible for collecting, managing and planning for revenue to support the state budget. The Comptroller collects and administers Maryland taxes on income (both personal and corporate), retail sales, motor vehicle fuel tax, tobacco, beer, wine and liquor, and estate tax. The Comptroller serves on the Board of Public Works along with the Governor and the state Treasurer, who is appointed by the General Assembly.

**SALARY:** \$149,500 per year.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide.

**WEBSITE:** see [Maryland Manual](#)

## The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**REVENUE SYSTEM:** What policies will you implement to improve the efficiency and fairness of the collection of Maryland taxes?

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:** As a member of the Board of Public Works, what criteria would you use for evaluating contracts and capital projects that are subject to approval by that Board?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Please describe any other priorities you have for this office.

## Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### Anjali Reed Phukan

Republican Party

Campaign Website: <http://mscomptroller.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/mscomptroller>

Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/mscomptroller](http://twitter.com/mscomptroller)

Campaign Instagram: MsComptroller

Campaign Email: [Mscomptroller@gmail.com](mailto:Mscomptroller@gmail.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I believe the top tax collector, auditor & maintainer of the public general ledger should be proficient in accounting. I am a certified public accountant, legally licensed to practice public accounting in Maryland. I also have an MBA in finance & another masters degree in information systems. I have private, federal & state work experiences in financial management systems, tax, accounting & audit.

**REVENUE SYSTEM:** I will update information systems statewide for usability and security, and promote tax credits and other incentives such as energy star, solar panels, etc. I also will reduce interest and penalties for people who are being proactive & voluntarily reporting additional income the state would normally not have time to audit; coming clean should never be penalized.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:** I want spending to be more spread across Maryland, for all to enjoy the

amazing nooks and crannies of our beautiful state. Safety is my number one priority in public works - safe roads for motorists, law enforcement, cyclists, pedestrians, businesses and our delicate environment. The prior history of contractors completing projects in time, safely, and within budget should also be reviewed. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** I think it is unfair to tax retirement income. If we remove it all together we would increase our property and sales tax base, hence bring up our net revenues. I will also increase transparency across the comptroller office, not just in the general ledger, but also in how the state audits and comes to final resolution with tax payers. I will loving enforce the law equally for all.

## Peter Franchot

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.franchot.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/peterfranchot>

Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/peterfranchot](https://twitter.com/peterfranchot)

Campaign Instagram: [www.instagram.com/peterfranchot](https://www.instagram.com/peterfranchot)

Campaign Email: [info@franchot.com](mailto:info@franchot.com)

Campaign Phone: (443) 254-6000

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As Maryland's independent fiscal watchdog, I'm proud of my record of achievement and results that I've delivered for Maryland taxpayers since I became Comptroller in 2007. Thanks to initiatives that we have implemented, and the hard work of the dedicated public servants in our agency, ours is regarded as the most efficient and effective Comptroller's Office in the nation.

**REVENUE SYSTEM:** Our main focus continues to be processing tax returns accurately and efficiently. We have improved our agency's responsiveness to taxpayers and reduce call wait times. In my agency, tax fairness is a top priority. We continue to embrace innovative ways to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share. Moving forward, I will continue to build upon the tremendous progress we have made.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:** As a BPW member, I am proud to be a strong fiscal watchdog for Maryland's working families. I have advocated against single-bid contracts, fought for the inclusion of more Minority and Women-owned contracts in the procurement system, and have worked in a bipartisan fashion to instate reforms to our state's previously broken procurement process.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** If elected to another term as Comptroller, I will continue to provide the independent leadership that Marylanders expect and deserve this office. I will fight for policies and priorities that grow our economy, safeguard our fiscal future, and protect the financial well-being of working families and small businesses.

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## Attorney General

**DUTIES:** The Attorney General is the chief legal office of Maryland, providing legal advice to the Governor, the legislature, and all State departments, boards and most commissions. The Attorney General represents the state in all cases that relate to the Governor, the General Assembly, and most state agencies. The office also has responsibilities for consumer protection, civil rights, medical and investment fraud, and the juvenile justice system.

**SALARY:** \$149,500 per year.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide.

**WEBSITE:** see [Maryland Manual](#)

## The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:** What steps will you take to improve the efficiency and fairness of legal processes in Maryland?

**LITIGATION:** When should the Attorney General join lawsuits relating to federal regulations or corporate misconduct?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What actions will you take to address other issues, such as domestic violence, human trafficking, substance abuse, and protection of consumers?

## Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Craig Wolf**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://wolf4ag.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/craigwolf4ag>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/Wolf4AG](https://twitter.com/Wolf4AG)

**Campaign Instagram:** wolf4ag

**Campaign Email:** [craig@wolf4ag.com](mailto:craig@wolf4ag.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (202) 415-6732

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a former state and federal prosecutor, counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, business leader and decorated Soldier/Veteran. I have also been a volunteer EMT/Rescue Diver. I have a lifetime of public service and management. I believe the AG should focus on public safety, not politics and partisanship and should focus on issues of importance to all Marylanders regardless of party.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:** The Attorney General should be focused on balancing the need to enforce the laws and ensure public safety while ensuring due process for all Marylanders. The AG should lead by example by being ethical, avoiding conflicts of interest and making sure that all voices are heard before weighing in on a particular case, while at the same time vigorously enforcing the laws of the state.

**LITIGATION:** With respect to federal regulations, the Attorney General should weigh in only when there is a compelling state interest, a sound legal basis and a determination that the case can be won on the merits. Those decisions should not be based on political considerations. With respect to corporate misconduct, the AG ensure respect for the law and hold corporations fully accountable for misconduct.

**DISCRIMINATION:** There is no room in this state for discrimination based upon race, gender, religion, disability or poverty/class. The Attorney General should be vigilant to ensure that our laws are respected and people are treated equally.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** As a prosecutor/counsel to the Senate Jud. Comm., I focused on domestic violence/sexual exploitation/trafficking. The AG should make protection of the most vulnerable a priority. The opioid crisis in Maryland needs leadership from the AG to bring together the law enforcement, public health and recovery communities to find appropriate solutions. Consumer protection must be a priority as well.

### **Brian E. Frosh**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.brianfrosh.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/BrianFrosh>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/FroshforAG](https://twitter.com/FroshforAG)

**Campaign Instagram:** FroshforAG

**Campaign Email:** [brian@brianfrosh.com](mailto:brian@brianfrosh.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 479-9788

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served as Maryland's Attorney General for the past three years. Prior to being elected Attorney General, I was Chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, where I sponsored many laws that now protect Marylanders and our state including the law prohibiting oil drilling in the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland Recycling Act and the Maryland Firearm Safety Act.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:** Among the many steps that my office has taken to improve the efficiency and fairness of the legal processes in Maryland is our fight for and achievement of reforming the cash bail system, which jailed people in our state simply because they were poor. I will continue to work with the legislature to find and invest in strategies that increase public safety and recidivism.

**LITIGATION:** The Attorney General should join lawsuits relating to federal regulations or corporate misconduct when there is evidence that the people or state of Maryland have been or will be adversely effected.

**DISCRIMINATION:** In 2015, my office was the first in the country to issue guidelines to all law

enforcement agencies prohibiting profiling based upon race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, etc. We published a study of discrimination against LGBT citizens that was cited by the Supreme Court in its historic Obergefell decision. We have penalized and shut down industries that prey on the poor.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Over the past three years my office has achieved hundreds of millions of dollars of settlements and judgments from Wall Street Banks, Predatory Lenders, Automakers, Tobacco Companies, and Polluters who sought to injure or defraud Marylanders. My office is working with the multi-state investigation of opioid manufacturers. If re-elected, I pledge to remain the People's lawyer & continue our efforts.

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## U.S. Senator

**Duties:** U.S. Senators make laws along with the members of the House of Representatives, ratify treaties, and conduct investigations on issues of national importance. The Senate confirms Presidential appointments.

**How Elected:** Elected statewide. In 2018, Maryland voters will elect one of our two Senators. About one-third of the 100 members of the Senate is elected every two years. Senators must be at least 30 years old, have been citizens of the United States at least 9 years and be residents of the state they want to represent.

**Term:** Six years.

**Base Salary:** \$174,000 per year.

**Website:** <https://www.senate.gov>

## The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**HEALTH CARE:** What changes in federal healthcare policy do you advocate and why?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** What policies will you support to strengthen the national economy, such as those affecting international trade, taxes, labor rights, and infrastructure?

**IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, will you support in immigration policy?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most pressing environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### Tony Campbell

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.campbell4maryland.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/campbell4maryland.com>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/campbell4md](http://twitter.com/campbell4md)

**Campaign Email:** [info@campbell4maryland.com](mailto:info@campbell4maryland.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have 30 years of government and non-profit experience. I served on a Congressional staff and as a presidential appointee at Social Security Administration. As a former Army officer, I understand national security issues as well as the need for sound foreign policy based on our national interest. I have real world experience and academic knowledge which is necessary to serve in the US Senate.

**HEALTH CARE:** I advocate for an end to ObamaCare. The national government should not be in the business of mandating health care coverage. A possible change I would be in favor of is looking at providing block grants to states from the national government to try to solve the opioid epidemic. Another change in health policy would be to allow Veterans to go to any hospital to get the care they need.

**DISCRIMINATION:** The Constitution of the United States guarantees liberties for citizens so they are equal under the law through the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Education Reform is one of the most pressing issues which can help to eliminate discrimination in our country. I support School Choice initiatives for all parents to send their children to the schools of their choice.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** I am against raising taxes. I support a balanced budget amendment. I am in favor of bi-lateral Fair Trade policies. Keeping America Secure is a key focus of my campaign for US Senate. Our cyber infrastructure is severely compromised with American companies being hacked by foreign countries. Our energy grid infrastructure is also at risk and should be priority of the national government.

**IMMIGRATION:** National Sovereignty is connected to the ability of a country to protect its borders. I support enhancing our border security through a variety of means including building a border wall and increased border agents. I am against current policies of the diversity lottery and chain migration. I am against a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people. I would support permanent residency status.

**ENVIRONMENT:** In Maryland, a pressing environmental challenge is the dredging of our waterways. Maryland is unique in the amount of waterways we have and the need we have for a partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers. As your next United States Senator, I will work to fully fund dredging projects to make sure our beautiful Chesapeake Bay is environmentally healthy.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Advocating Success, not subsistence. The American Dream has been not possible for a lot of Marylanders. As your next United States Senator, I want to promote a vision of economic success. I believe limited government intervention is important so people can build a legacy of wealth creation to pass onto their children and grandchildren.

## Ben Cardin

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.bencardin.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/bencardin>

Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/BenCardinforMD](https://twitter.com/BenCardinforMD)

Campaign Email: [info@bencardin.com](mailto:info@bencardin.com)

Campaign Phone: (443) 865-7290

**QUALIFICATIONS:** In the Senate, I fight every day for the issues of concern to my fellow Marylanders, promoting policies, legislation and programs that help our local and regional economy, encouraging public safety and supporting public health. My success navigating the Small Business, Environment & Public Works, Finance and Foreign Relations committees allow me to effectively continue my advocacy for Marylanders.

**HEALTH CARE:** Health care is a human right. We should have seamless quality health care from pre-natal to death that is affordable without sacrificing quality and basic protections. Congress must restore the payments to insurers that have helped keep premiums in reach for millions. I have long supported a public option in the health exchanges that would increase competition, put patients first and lower costs.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Bills I have authored or cosponsored include: the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act, a resolution to remove the deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment, the Democracy Restoration Act, The Equality Act of 2017 and the Paycheck Fairness Act. I continue to support legislation to protect our LGBT students and adults. I support an increase in the federal minimum wage.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** We should modify our tax code to truly target middle-income and working families, help small businesses & make smart investments in infrastructure & green technologies. Investments should address income inequality & raising wages. We need trade agreements that level the field for our workers, including robust & enforceable labor rights, environmental provisions & anti-corruption provisions.

**IMMIGRATION:** I support bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform, but Congress must first pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers. We need a legal pathway to residency for TPS recipients. We don't need a wall but we can strengthen technology and other border security. We must stop President Trump's proposal to slash legal immigration, break up families and mostly close America's doors to refugees.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The president's unwillingness to confront climate change. I will fight for federal resources that compel this administration to invest, especially in clean air, clean water, renewable energy and public transit. We've seen success with funding for the Chesapeake Bay. If the Trump administration will not take steps necessary to protect our environment, we must encourage states to continue their work

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Opioid addiction and abuse is a public health crisis. We must fight it head on with every available resource at all levels of government. Our drug laws must be smart, fair and rational, and treat addiction as a disease that requires treatment. We should improve access to evidence-based

treatment centers, promote prevention education methods, and provide support for those in or seeking recovery.

## **Arvin Vohra**

**Libertarian Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://votevohra.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/vohraeducation>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/votevohra](https://twitter.com/votevohra)

**Campaign Email:** [votevohra@gmail.com](mailto:votevohra@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 320-3634

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As an educator and entrepreneur, I have seen the damage government has done. I advocate repealing regulations, ending government involvement in education, abolishing public schools, abolishing all government welfare, and ending the income tax. As Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party, I support ending the welfare-warfare state, ceasing involvement in foreign civil wars, and downsizing the military.

**HEALTH CARE:** I will sponsor legislation to abolish Obamacare, Medicare, Medicaid, the FDA, and cut taxes accordingly. Consider this: laser eye surgery, which is not covered by government insurance, has dropped from several thousand dollars to a few hundred per eye. EpiPen, which is covered, has increased in price from a hundred to several hundred dollars. Free markets make medicine actually affordable

**DISCRIMINATION:** I will sponsor legislation to immediately end Affirmative Action and all other government racial quotas and preferences. I will also work to eliminate all "anti-discrimination" laws, which accomplish nothing besides creating resentment. Any business has the right to refuse service to anyone, or fire any employee, for any reason. I will defund related government programs and cut taxes accordingly.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** I will work to end the income tax by cutting federal spending, eliminating federal departments, firing federal employees, dismantling the welfare state, shutting down foreign military bases, and bringing the troops home. We'll have more money to spend on businesses that work, creating more free market, legitimate jobs, while also attracting job creating businesses to America.

**IMMIGRATION:** I will sponsor legislation to open borders and end all welfare, including food stamps, public schools, social security, Medicaid, and college financial aid. I also support ending the income tax, in order to attract entrepreneurs and job creators. Anyone who wants to come to America to work and create jobs should be welcome. No one who comes to America should get a cent of welfare.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The federal government is the biggest polluter in America. Much of that comes from massive military production of unneeded equipment. If elected, I will sponsor legislation to end production of needless military equipment, and to cease all environmentally destructive military overreach. I will work to end all involvement in foreign civil wars, bring the troops home, and cut taxes accordingly.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** I will sponsor legislation to end all welfare, to encourage personal responsibility. I will sponsor legislation to end the drug war, to eliminate prohibition-created violence. I will sponsor legislation to cut federal spending, fire federal workers, dismantle federal agencies, in order to increase freedom and end the income tax.

## **Neal Simon**

**Unaffiliated Candidate**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.nealsimon.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/nealjsimon/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/nealjsimon](https://twitter.com/nealjsimon)

**Campaign Instagram:** @nealjsimon

**Campaign Email:** [teamneal@nealsimon.com](mailto:teamneal@nealsimon.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 442-6583

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've run several professional services companies in my career, where I was surrounded by many smart people with different ideas. My job in managing those companies was to listen, bring people together, and find common ground. I have also been very involved in my community as a volunteer, board member, and board chair. I've chaired the Montgomery County and Greater Washington Community Foundations.

**HEALTH CARE:** It is time for the two parties to stop fighting over how to pay for an inefficient, costly health care system and instead find ways to reduce the crippling cost of healthcare for businesses and families. We need to enact reform that will incentivize wellness instead of incentivizing more procedures, to lower the overall cost of care.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I believe that America should be a place where everyone is treated equally, regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. I support equal pay for equal work, and other measures designed to accomplish this goal. I believe deeply that America should be a place where everyone can work hard and get ahead.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** One of my primary objectives as your Senator is to create high-paying jobs in Maryland. I will work with our Governor & other leaders to attract large businesses and incentivize investment in small businesses, especially in lower income parts of our state. As far as infrastructure, I find it inexcusable that the two major parties have failed to work together to invest in our future.

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigration is an area where, despite 15 years of debate, the parties have been unable to agree on immigration reform. We need comprehensive reform that will strengthen our borders, increase temporary work visas, expand the e-verification program, keep immigrant families together, and create paths for the law-abiding immigrants who have been here for a long time.

**ENVIRONMENT:** It is clear that the greatest environmental threat to our civilization is climate change, which is real and needs to be addressed in partnership with other countries. In Maryland, we need to protect the Chesapeake Bay from sediment flowing over the Conowingo Dam, I will work with our Governor, as well as Senators from NY and PA to ensure we have the federal resources we need to keep the Bay clean.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** The extremes of the two parties have co-opted our government, and altered the rules in their favor. We need political reform, and it's clear that neither party is going to fix the brokenness in our government. I support 5 policies that will change the way Washington works: ending partisan gerrymandering, opening primaries, campaign finance reform, term limits, and modernizing the senate rules.

## Michael B. Puskar

Write-in

Campaign Website: <http://mbpuskar.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/mbpuskar>

Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/mbpuskar](http://twitter.com/mbpuskar)

Campaign Instagram: @mbpuskar

Campaign Email: [puskar2018@yahoo.com](mailto:puskar2018@yahoo.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The most important experience anyone can have when representing the People is living the way the majority of the People live. I am a working-class man for the working class. This is an asset lacking in or lost to most elected officials.

**HEALTH CARE:** One word: UNIVERSAL. Healthcare is a right, and certain groups take advantage of the People's health for their own gain. While current proposals are far from the right solution, we need to move in that direction. Have you (or anyone you know) had a point in life when medical bills/costs were an impediment? There's no need for that to be.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Everyone is equal/equitable. Women & men deserve equal pay. No one should be singled out by law enforcement because of skin color. 1A allows for freedom of religion, so anyone can worship (or abstain therefrom) as they wish. Income inequality is too huge an issue in our wealthy nation: we need to stop giving breaks to those who don't need them - that is why they are called "breaks!"

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** America First, but that does not mean alienating allies. Workers first, but we need to help small biz too. Taxes: what if we stop paying elected officials far more than we ourselves make? MD's per capita income is about \$80k - Congressional salaries are >2x that for working as little as 1/3 of a year! As for infrastructure, we need to spend more there than on the war machine. Give jobs to vets!

**IMMIGRATION:** 1. Legal immigration needs to be prioritized to asylum seekers: We have an ancestry of immigrants based on need, not based on whom we like or dislike. 2. For every issue (not just immigration), I will put children first. So, when it comes to families not entering legally, we need to look at the needs of migrant children.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change is an issue. Going green is an eventual ideal, but we cannot do it overnight... miners still have jobs; most people can only afford gas-powered cars. The aforementioned

economic issues need fixing first.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** With children first, education matters greatly, and dealing with income equality/healthcare can assist with that. Eliminating college debt would help immensely and allow for a more diverse/stress-free assortment in the workforce. I also strongly support the rights of veterans. The gov't can't do enough to repay those who have sacrificed much for us. Finally, I support animal welfare. #MustLoveDogs

## **Edward Shlikas**

**Write-in**

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/senatorshlikas](https://twitter.com/senatorshlikas)

**Campaign Email:** [edwardshlikas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardshlikas@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 977-3175

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am an experienced, tried and true leader. I collaborate well with others. I am not on the take like all other Democratic and Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate in Maryland, who take money from PACs and wealthy individuals, and in return do their bidding, instead of representing the People. I will represent the best interests of all Marylanders and Americans. Vote Shlikas for Senate.

**HEALTH CARE:** Universal Single Payer Healthcare for all Americans. Our current healthcare system sucks. We pay the most money for our healthcare and we get the worst healthcare of all developed nations. Because our current senators are so corrupt and on the take, insurance and pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and doctors make an exorbitant amount of money for providing horrible healthcare to Americans.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Criminally prosecute companies that discriminate against people based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty. Criminally prosecute executives in companies that discriminate, including CEOs and Board Members. Criminally prosecute members of Congress and the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government, who discriminate based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** Include in the negotiations affecting international trade, from the start, all Americans' interests, not just the wealthy and corporations, who own and control all three branches of our federal government. Include environmental, health, and labor interests. Get rid of the Federal Reserve, who artificially set interest rates to benefit bankers and the Wealthy1%. End the War on Plants/Drugs.

**IMMIGRATION:** Stop allowing corporations like Tech and Agricultural companies exploit immigrants by paying them below market wages and benefits, which suppresses the wages and benefits of American workers, through programs like H1-B. Criminally prosecute corporations, executives, and the wealthy who employ and exploit illegal immigrants by paying them below market wages. Stop scapegoating immigrants.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Pollution. Stop coal, oil, chemical, power, and agribusiness corporations from polluting our environment with impunity. Criminally prosecute the corporations, executives, board members, and government officials who knowingly pollute our environment and sicken and kill people. Stop subsidizing corporations with taxpayer money that pollute our environment. Stop farm runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** We must get the Wealthy1% and corporations, who own and control all three branches of our government, out of power. We must get moneyed interests out of the business of buying our representatives elections through "donations," aka bribes, and publicly finance all candidates with the same amount of money. We must End the War on Plants/Drugs and legalize all plants to reduce overdoses and deaths.

## **Lih Young**

**Write-in**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.vote-md.org>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/DR\\_LIH\\_YOUNG](https://twitter.com/DR_LIH_YOUNG)

**Campaign Email:** [lly2kj@gmail.com](mailto:lly2kj@gmail.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Reformer/advocate/activist. Promote fairness/freedom/justice/peace; productivity/accountability/cost-effectiveness. Identified "socio- economic-political- election- media-budget- legislation- system problems"; local- global; testify/recommend to officials, law enforcement, 3 branches. TV programs producer speaker; field/studio. Expertise, commitment:

intensive/extensive/diversified civic services

**HEALTH CARE:** Support single-payer healthcare by government, affordable health care. Our health care system should not be controlled by for-profit corporations. To improve quality, affordable health care for all as a fundamental right and should be achieved by the government. Medical costs should not be shifted onto other programs (e.g., Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries). Promote productivity, accountability

**DISCRIMINATION:** Equal protection, non-discrimination; employment/business/activities; rights/homes/vehicles/resources/ reputation/ freedoms/ affiliation, environment; document, evidence. Equal pay, sick paid leaves. Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME-INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation; threat/coercion/victimization; physical/mental/financial/medication/litigation/levies/ foreclosures

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** Prosecute/eliminate " official misconduct-government gang-MURDER-FRAUD-CRIME-INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust/false/misleading practices; private-public; 3 branches, local-fed- global, inc. non-profit, think tanks. Protect people/families/ businesses: lives, rights, reputation, assets, vehicles, resources. Promote productivity, public interest, cost-benefits, social needs, budget constraints.

**IMMIGRATION:** SUPPORT: Comprehensive immigration reform. Promote humanity, productivity, justice, peace. Protect people, families, environment. Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE networks"; unjust practices, victimization, deprivation, destruction; threat, coercion; unjust arrest, detention, torture. Reduce fees, fast processing of citizen application/replacement card

**ENVIRONMENT:** End: dependence/subsidies for fossil fuels, coal, nuclear energy, offshore oil drilling, spills. Curb carbon pollution, medical costs. Improve regulation/oversight. Promote clean air, water, renewable energy. Protect public health, environment. Promote efficiency, technology, research. Reduce unjust practices, hacking, manipulation, obstruction; false excuses, distortion. Prosecute wrongdoers.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Prosecute/eliminate "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER- FRAUD-CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS"= "cruel tyranny"= "robbery machine"= "ROBBER-ISM"= "super classes of frauds, crimes, parasites, disservices"; public-private; 3 branches, local- global. Promote accountability, social needs. objective evaluations. Televise candidate debate; maintain/disseminate accurate meaningful records, proceeding

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## U.S. Representative District 5

**Duties:** Representatives make laws along with the members of the Senate, and may conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Representatives can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

**Term:** Two years

**Base Salary:** \$174,000

**How Elected:** Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2010 Census.

**Website:** [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**HEALTH CARE:** What changes in federal healthcare policy do you advocate and why?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** What policies will you support to strengthen the national economy, such as those affecting international trade, taxes, labor rights, and infrastructure?

**IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, will you support in immigration policy?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most pressing environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## **Candidates**

Vote for no more than 1.

### **William A. Devine III**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/bill.devine.50>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/studlydevine](https://twitter.com/studlydevine)

**Campaign Email:** [studlydevine@yahoo.com](mailto:studlydevine@yahoo.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 946-4547

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Even though I am basically a political outsider seeking office, I have served as an elected official as a Councilman with the Town of Capitol Heights. I also campaigned for a seat on the Prince Georges County Council. Unlike many other candidates seeking office, I have lived my entire life in the great State of Maryland. Growing up in the Town of Capitol Heights was a great experience for me.

**HEALTH CARE:** I believe that all Americans should be able to afford the best healthcare available for the entire family. Regards of income or employment, everyone should be able to have the same healthcare as provided to the U.S. Congress.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I support a policy of absolutely NO Discrimination, especially in the workforce period.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** It's basic Economics 101, Lower Taxes and Higher Employment. Better paying full time jobs is very important to the United States economy. The taxes paid will help with fixing our infrastructure with building state-of-the-art public transportation as well as lowering healthcare costs.

**IMMIGRATION:** I believe we have in place right now a very strong immigration policy that is now being implemented. The National Guard is now being employed to protect our borders. We can not allow so many immigrants, especially illegal immigrants to enter the United States. Our Country's infrastructure, healthcare and economy can not support the millions of people that want to live here.

**ENVIRONMENT:** We need to restrict the products that we import from other countries that don't have any environmental regulations in place as with China. We are definitely moving in the right direct here with alternative sources of energy with solar and wind power. Fossile fuels we use today is not unlimited amount. It's projected that we will have used all the oil and gas in the world around the year 2068.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** My Top priority is the War on Drugs. We are now in a drug epidemic with the abuse pf opioids abuse in this Country that is effecting almost every family in every State. From the poor to the rich, many have fallen. 116 people. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that's how many people died, per day, from opioid-related overdoses in 2016. That is unacceptable.

### **Steny H. Hoyer**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.hoyerforcongress.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/hoyerforcongress>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/stenyhoyer](https://twitter.com/stenyhoyer)

**Campaign Instagram:** none

**Campaign Email:** [jazz@hoyerforcongress.com](mailto:jazz@hoyerforcongress.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 464-5710

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been an effective and bipartisan leader who works to deliver results for my constituents. Economic development continues to be one of my top priorities and I am proud to have helped create and save 23,000 jobs. I remain dedicated to ensuring all Marylanders have access to middle class opportunities.

**HEALTH CARE:** The Affordable Care Act has provided thousands of families in Maryland with quality, affordable health care. Rather than undermining the law, Republicans in Congress and President Trump should work with Democrats to improve the law, and ensure the affordability of insurance and access to quality care.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Throughout my career in Congress and the Maryland Senate, I have taken a leading role in supporting legislation that ends discrimination. I was the primary House sponsor of the Americans with Disability Act, was instrumental as Majority Leader in repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, support legislation for equal pay and fought for voting rights.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** I launched the Make It In America plan, to focus on boosting a declining American manufacturing sector. Since then, 19 bills have been signed into law, including legislation to cut taxes and provide loans for small businesses, speed up the patent process, train skilled workers, and end tax

loopholes that encourage companies to ship jobs overseas. I began a listening tour to update the agenda.

**IMMIGRATION:** When President Trump ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in September 2017, he left hundreds of thousands of hardworking young people twisting in the wind. DREAMers know no other country than America, and it reprehensible that Congress has not come to a consensus on reinstating the DACA program. It's past time for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The most pressing challenge is the Trump Administration's actions to eliminate and undermine environmental protection and its denial of climate change. I have been a strong supporter of protecting our water, air and land.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** I will continue to protect our military installations like Pax River, Indian Head and Webster Field, and federal facilities as well as continue to advocate to bring the new, consolidated FBI Headquarters to Prince George's County. I will also remain an advocate for our nation's federal employees who keep our food safe, keep planes in the air, and protect our country and serve our people.

## Jacob Pulcher

Libertarian Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.pulcherforpoultry.com/>

Campaign Facebook: <http://@pulcherforpoultry.com>

Campaign Email: [Jacobpulcherforcongress@gmail.com](mailto:Jacobpulcherforcongress@gmail.com)

Campaign Phone: (267) 257-6648

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am no different or more qualified than any hard working tax paying American. I believe my experience qualifies me far more than any career politician who has no real understanding of what life is like for the middle class.

**HEALTH CARE:** I believe in a welll regulated free market system. The government should never have stuck its greedy pig snout in this industry. I can agree it was not perfect before but the quality of this product has decline considerably while the cost has skyrocketed.

**DISCRIMINATION:** As a libertarian I believe all people are Created equally. It is no business of the government what your race or sex or religious beliefs. No one should be treated different or payed less regardless.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** We need to focus more on our crumbling infrastructure. I support the unions and believe the people should have the choice to join them. Government interference should be minimal in foreign trade.

**IMMIGRATION:** I support a simpler method to citizenship. While I do not support tax funded programs to support non citizens I believe that every human should have an opportunity to become an American.

**ENVIRONMENT:** I believe environmental issues should be handled on the state level. The federal government involvement in state land should be minimal.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** The drug war has failed us on every level. People should not be incarcerated for buying drugs that should not be illegal. These people have a disease, they are our friends and family. I want to decriminalize all illegal drugs and create a path to have all drugs sold legally in well regulated dispensaries. These dispensaries should be managed on the state level and owned locally.

## Patrick J. Elder

Green Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.elderforcongress.org>

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pat.elder1>

Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/studentprivacy](http://twitter.com/studentprivacy)

Campaign Instagram: [patelderforcongress](http://Instagram.com/patelderforcongress)

Campaign Email: [elderforcongress@gmail.com](mailto:elderforcongress@gmail.com)

Campaign Phone: (301) 997-3963

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I hold an MA in Gov't from the Univ. of MD. I've been a business owner, teacher, and political activist for forty years. I know what it's like to meet the payroll of a dozen employees. I've also worked on issues relating to homelessness, children, militarism, and the environment. I embrace the role of government in regulation and taxation, with services on a par with our European counterparts.

**HEALTH CARE:** We must enact a publicly funded health care system. People are suffering needlessly. I support HR 676. This bill provides everyone with free health care that includes all medically necessary

care, such as primary care and prevention, dietary and nutritional therapies, prescription drugs, emergency care, long-term care, mental health services, dental services, and vision care.

**DISCRIMINATION:** We must counter the mass incarceration of African Americans for nonviolent drug offenses. Many are caught in an atrocious revolving door of arrest, incarceration, release, and re-arrest. Many are sick, in desperate need of intensive drug therapy and job training. I support policies to increase investment in marginalized communities, affordable housing, education, job training, and health care.

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** I support the policies advocated by the Democratic Progressive Caucus. The wealthiest must be taxed, as they are in Europe, to radically change American society and create high-paying jobs. I'd invest \$2 trillion over 10 years to rebuild transportation, water, energy, and information systems, while overhauling unsafe and inefficient schools, homes, and public buildings.

**IMMIGRATION:** Undocumented immigrants and their families should be granted a legal status which includes the chance to become U.S. citizens. Persons should be excluded from this process only if they present a danger to other members of our society. All persons fleeing political, racial, religious, or other types of persecution must be welcomed and given permanent resident status.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The 5th is home to Morgantown and Chalk Point, two of MD's nine coal-fired plants. They're poisoning us, and they should be shut down and replaced with renewable energy sources. The Naval Surface Warfare Center and Pax River have polluted the air, groundwater, surface water, and the soil. We must subject the irresponsible actions of the military to state oversight.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Calvert's school budget is \$115 Million, about the cost of one F-35. The F-35 is the most expensive DOD program ever, with a total lifetime price tag of \$1.5 trillion. That's 13,000 times what Calvert spends on its schools. Modernizing nuclear weapons will cost \$1 trillion over the next ten years. We must cut defense spending and work out our problems overseas nonviolently and multilaterally.

## **Johnny Rice**

### **Write-in**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/johnnyriceforcongress/>

**Campaign Email:** [johnnyriceforcongress@gmail.com](mailto:johnnyriceforcongress@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 241-2724

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have 25 years of Christian Volunteer Ministry work in W.Africa for 2 years as a Bible teacher in Ghana at a UN Refugee Camp ; Liberia, Nigeria, India & Churches/Ministries, 2 Christian TV stations, TBN, and TheCrossTV. My Mission is on Capitol Hill to lift up Jesus & Prayer in America and expose the Atheistic/ Anti-Biblical Agenda of the Democrat Leaders / Democrat Party.

**HEALTH CARE:** Want to work with Dana Rohrabacher and Corey Booker to legalize Cannabis/Marijuana to be legalized Federally as a Homeopathic Medicine & for Responsible 21yr old Adult usage, which studies have shown is a much safer alternative medicine. Websites advocating & educating are:  
<https://www.mpp.org/issues/medical-marijuana/> ; <http://www.marylandcannabispolicy.org/> ;  
<http://www.marylandnorml.org> .

**DISCRIMINATION:** Will promote Jesus's teachings of Loving our neighbor as ourself & forgiving our enemies, those who have offended. Matthew 5 And support current Anti-Discrimination laws on the books, which great American leaders pushed for, such as Pres. Lincoln; Dr Frederick Douglass, my biggest hero; & Dr. Martin Luther King . Promote Biblical Truth that Everyone is Equal as God has ordained Galatians 3:28

**ECONOMIC POLICY:** Support Pres Trump's Economic; Trade; Taxes; policies. Support putting Tariffs equal , Fair Trade, as Peter Navarro, Trump's Trade Policy Advisor, to resurrect Industries , destroyed by Bad Trade deals of Clinton, Bush Sr&Jr, Obama, NAFTA, China, Mexico, 800 Billion trade deficit Ross Perot warned millions of jobs lost. Support No Tax increases Pledge led by Grover Norquist group/book.

**IMMIGRATION:** My solution to DACA/DREAMERS NO AMNESTY CITIZENSHIP! NO WELFARE! CANNOT STEAL ELECTIONS for DEMOCRATS! LIFETIME GREEN CARD which gives RESIDENCY /WORK PERMIT . NO FAMILY CHAIN MIGRATION. Only for Illegals physically here. STOP LEGAL IMMIGRATION until 2020!!! NO more ILLEGALS /GREEN CARD HOLDERS on WELFARE (75% currently). Must make Welfare illegal. E-VERIFY required for ALL EMPLOYMENT .

**ENVIRONMENT:** Promote Hydro Electric power as The Safest, Cleanest Energy source, should build more Hydro Electric Dams with the goal to replace all other Unclean Energy sources, especially Nuclear Power Plants, which all should be shut down ASAP, as 80% are leaking contaminating Water supplies. Also replace Coal. Goal to have 100% Hydro Power, as Norway has 98%. Clean up Chesapeake Bay with Oyster project.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Disagree w/Pres Trump on the Military budget. Would push to decrease the Military budget by 25% +(not Military service pay), rather than the Billions wasted on Neverending spending on Weapons; Nuclear; etc. Cutting the Military Budget , provide Fed Funding \$1 Trillion Infrastructure, keep SocialServices STRONG. Stop Military invasions, for Defense. Cut NASA/CIA/NSA/FOREIGN AID/UN, except Israel.

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## Maryland General Assembly

### Senator District 27

**DUTIES:** State Senators and Delegates represent residents in each legislative district in the Maryland General Assembly. The General Assembly enacts laws, raises revenue through taxes and fees, and appropriates funds for all state agencies in an annual budget. The General Assembly may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters. The Senate also confirms the Governor's appointments of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

**SALARY:** \$50,330 annual base.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** The state is divided into 47 legislative districts, and each district elects one State Senator.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:** <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**REDISTRICTING:** What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**EDUCATION:** What education policies would you support and how would you fund them?

**HEALTH CARE:** What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

**TRANSPORTATION:** What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

#### Jesse Allen Peed

Republican Party

Campaign Website: <http://peed4statesenate.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/JessePeedForMarylandSenate>

Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/jessepeed](http://twitter.com/jessepeed)

Campaign Email: [jesseforSenate@gmail.com](mailto:jesseforSenate@gmail.com)

Campaign Phone: (240) 417-9808

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I was born in Maryland, and have lived here most of my life. I raised my family here. My experiences in the military and as a small business owner, have provided an exceptional perspective on the government, the overreaching regulations in place, and the effect they have on the day-to-day lives of Maryland citizens.

**REDISTRICTING:** I would support a fair and unbiased way for drawing congressional and legislative district lines. The districts should best serve the needs of the constituents, not the politicians. Lines should be drawn in a geographical manner, not political.

**ENVIRONMENT:** A partnership between private citizens, businesses, and a transparent board of trustees should be established to oversee the Save the Bay Trust Fund, and to create a better Maryland for our future generations.

**DISCRIMINATION:** All people should be treated equally under the law.

**EDUCATION:** I would like to see accountability and transparency in our schools. I believe that our children are better served by their communities and their local boards of education. The government should distance itself from intrusive policies, such as the common core standard. I would also support school choice. An audit of our school systems would show where funds should be spent.

**HEALTH CARE:** I think the health care markets should go back to the free market system. Insurance should be sold across state lines to create more competition. Policies should be portable so the purchaser can take their policy with them if they change their address or employment. The consumer should have many options made available when purchasing policies.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Our infrastructure should be brought back up to standards that are safe for the citizens. The funding should come from existing taxes and the trust fund that has already been established. The transportation needs of the future should be addressed by common sense means with funding that does not bankrupt our state. Transportation is a proven investment that pays dividends for all.

## **Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.senatormikemiller.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/senatormikemiller>

**Campaign Email:** [SenatorMiller@SenatorMikeMiller.com](mailto:SenatorMiller@SenatorMikeMiller.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As President of the Maryland Senate, I am in a unique position to shape statewide policy while working to make sure Southern Maryland continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.

**REDISTRICTING:** I voted to create a regional independent congressional redistricting compact. Under SB 1023 of 2017, Maryland would have adopted an independent and nonpartisan process in collaboration with New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina. This sort of collaboration can help states act regionally while Congress refuses to act nationally.

**ENVIRONMENT:** This year, I voted to require Maryland to join the U.S. Climate Alliance and to prevent Maryland from withdrawing from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Last year, I fought for increasing Maryland's use of renewable energy. I will continue to champion legislation to protect clean water and air.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Maryland has strong anti-discrimination laws, and I have consistently voted to strengthen those laws. This year, I cosponsored legislation to prohibit state officials from unlawfully harassing or discriminating in the workplace and to require independent investigations of claims of harassment or discrimination against elected officials.

**EDUCATION:** Maryland will spend \$6 billion on public schools in FY2019 – a record investment. We are using the Kirwan Commission to shape the future of education, and I voted to create a lock box on casino revenue, which will provide an additional \$500 million for education when fully phased in.

**HEALTH CARE:** Republicans in Washington, D.C., jeopardized our health care system by gutting the Affordable Care Act. Their actions would have caused a 50% rate hike in Maryland – which would have caused a death spiral in our health insurance market. This year, I worked across party lines to stabilize our marketplace.

**TRANSPORTATION:** This year, I supported two significant changes to Maryland's transportation system. I voted to dedicate a portion of our Transportation Trust Fund to WMATA, which will help stabilize and improve the Metro. I also voted to restore funding for local road maintenance projects.

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## **House of Delegates 27A**

**DUTIES:** Delegates share responsibility with State Senators for enactment of the State's laws as provided for in the Constitution of the State of Maryland. This includes the approval of all state taxes and the spending budget for all state programs.

**SALARY:** \$50,330 annual base.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** There are three Delegates for each of the 47 Senate districts for a state total of 141 Delegates. Most of the Delegate districts are three-member at-large districts, but some areas of the State have a district subdivided into three single-member districts, or a one single-member district and one

multi-member district.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:** <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

## **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**REDISTRICTING:** What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**EDUCATION:** What education policies would you support and how would you fund them?

**HEALTH CARE:** What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

**TRANSPORTATION:** What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

## **Candidates**

Vote for no more than 1.

### **Susie Proctor**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.susieproctor.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/delegate-susie-proctor-565619963611547>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/delsusieproctor](https://twitter.com/delsusieproctor)

**Campaign Email:** [susie@susieproctor.com](mailto:susie@susieproctor.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 502-4381

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Community service has always been a central part of my life. As a retired educator, with fifteen years as Court Liaison, I learned to be a skilled listener with knowledge of many available resources. Serving as Trustee for Prince George's Community College and Chair for the Prince George's Taxation and Assessment Board offered a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of government.

**REDISTRICTING:** Redistricting is an immediate concern as the Supreme Court currently reviews the challenges to Maryland's Congressional Districts. All citizens must be fairly represented. I support changes that ensure fair representation for every citizen. The Maryland Redistricting and Reform Commission will present recommendations to address this issue.

**ENVIRONMENT:** A big challenge is convincing our populous that we have environmental issues and the immediate need to address them. Providing and protecting water, air, land, and etc. is a responsibility and a duty to future generations. This is an issue that I support wholeheartedly.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Discrimination is a universal issue, that many of us experience daily. There are continuous efforts to legislate and regulate respect for everyone. Passing laws that ban all forms of discrimination is essential. Establishing youth programs that encourage interaction and promotes understanding is a basic goal.

**EDUCATION:** Supporting the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission is my primary objective. Educators deserve increase pay, better benefits, and teaching environments that are comfortable, safe, and adequately equipped. Securing casino profits is one step towards providing the necessary funding for education.

**HEALTH CARE:** Providing adequate health care for all residents of Maryland is crucial. The legislature passed laws this session to address many of the gaps in coverage, but securing adequate funding is an constant challenge. Establishing behavioral health programs with millions in additional dollars is an attempt to combat the opioid epidemic. Supporting health care funding is an constant on my agenda.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Traffic congestion, lack of public transportation, and maintenance concerns are evident in all jurisdictions. I would support all efforts to provide funds for immediate completion of transportation projects. Identified transportation projects must be funded now.

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# **Senator District 28**

**DUTIES:** State Senators and Delegates represent residents in each legislative district in the Maryland General Assembly. The General Assembly enacts laws, raises revenue through taxes and fees, and appropriates funds for all state agencies in an annual budget. The General Assembly may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters. The Senate also confirms the Governor's appointments of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

**SALARY:** \$50,330 annual base.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** The state is divided into 47 legislative districts, and each district elects one State Senator.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:** <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

## **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**REDISTRICTING:** What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**EDUCATION:** What education policies would you support and how would you fund them?

**HEALTH CARE:** What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

**TRANSPORTATION:** What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

## **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Bill Dotson**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.electbilldotson.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://elect Bill Dotson>

**Campaign Email:** [b dotson@moderndoors.com](mailto:b dotson@moderndoors.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 752-2101

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I started a small business in 1985 with 3 office personnel and 4 people in the field. That company is now the largest company of its kind in N America. I have also built several other small businesses and know how to collaborate for success. I was elected chairman of the Republican Central Committee in 2016, am endorsed by the Governor and I know how to bring economic development to my County.

**REDISTRICTING:** Maryland deserves fair districts that allow people to elect representatives. I fully support Redistricting and will work with Gov Hogan to provide a fair redistricting. In Charles County, we need our delegates to be elected by District, not at large. Again, it is the right of the citizens to elect representatives from their district. We must be fair.

**ENVIRONMENT:** We know that Climate Change is affecting Maryland. We should work towards using more renewable energy. The Governor has banned fracking which is good. We have natural gas thru Cove Point. We are using about 3% solar and that needs to increase AS the technology improves. I would be interested in looking at off shore wind power to see if the technology is there. Fossil fuel needs to be phased out

**DISCRIMINATION:** There should be "blind" justice that is always just. No one should be discriminated against due to race, religion, sexual orientation, disability. Education should be equal so that everyone has the same opportunity and more opportunity zones should be created so that people in poverty or near poverty have an opportunity to get a great job. This includes public transportation for the poor.

**EDUCATION:** Fully fund education Lock box gambling revenues for Education. We need to make sure every MD Student has access to a world class public education. We need to increase teachers pay to keep and retain great teachers. I support free Community College with requirements on family income and students maintaining certain grade point average. I support ESL and VO TEC in every high school.

**HEALTH CARE:** The cost of health care is too high and deductibles basically make middle class families

"self Insured" We need to work to lower premiums by MD offering re-insurance funds. Every MD resident deserves health care be it private or state. We need to work together, both parties with the Governor, to find real solutions to lowering the cost of heath care. No child should be without health care.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Light rail or MARC train where possible Van GO or other types of public transportation for low income /disadvantaged We need Rapid Bus transit in Charles County.

### **Arthur Ellis**

#### **Democratic Party**

No response received by deadline.

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## **House of Delegates 28**

**DUTIES:** Delegates share responsibility with State Senators for enactment of the State's laws as provided for in the Constitution of the State of Maryland. This includes the approval of all state taxes and the spending budget for all state programs.

**SALARY:** \$50,330 annual base.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** There are three Delegates for each of the 47 Senate districts for a state total of 141 Delegates. Most of the Delegate districts are three-member at-large districts, but some areas of the State have a district subdivided into three single-member districts, or a one single-member district and one multi-member district.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:** <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

### **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**REDISTRICTING:** What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

**ENVIRONMENT:** What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**EDUCATION:** What education policies would you support and how would you fund them?

**HEALTH CARE:** What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

**TRANSPORTATION:** What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

### **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 3.*

### **Dave Campbell**

#### **Republican Party**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/ElectDaveCampbell/>

No response received by deadline.

### **Jim Crawford**

#### **Republican Party**

**Campaign Email:** [jimc1936@gmail.com](mailto:jimc1936@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 752-0955

**QUALIFICATIONS:** CEO & COO of two businesses employing over 100 each. Board of Directors of many for-profit, non-profit, and faith-based organizations. Extensive experience with Government policies and regulations.

**REDISTRICTING:** Maryland districting is a total mess. Congressional and State districts should be grouped as concise as possible with natural, logical boundaries. All State Delegate districts should be single with no at-large groups.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Water pollution is our most serious and least resolved problem. Infrastructure upgrading and more public awareness are the best solutions.

**DISCRIMINATION:** We have enough policies. Enforcement is the issue.

**EDUCATION:** We have enough funding. The system needs overhauling in terms of discipline, security, curriculum (including vo-tech), and teacher vs administration staffing.

**HEALTH CARE:** Policies which encourage: Waste, Fraud, Abuse, Duplication, and Unnecessary procedures in addition to opioid abuse are the problems. We need a multi-level approach including health professionals, faith-based, non-profit, and government involvement to address the problems.

**TRANSPORTATION:** INFRASTRUCTURE remediation. Govenor Hogan has done a good job of addressing infrastructure repair rather than new projects, and we should continue to prioritize and fix old problems first.

## **Maureen Janette Woodruff**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Maureen-J-Woodruff-789859771212525/>

**Campaign Twitter:** twitter.com/MaureenElect

**Campaign Instagram:** ElectMaureenJWoodruff

**Campaign Email:** [electmaureenjwoodruff@gmail.com](mailto:electmaureenjwoodruff@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (224) 567-9939

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Over the past 4 1/2 years I have been very involved in both the local issues in Charles County and also state issues. I am on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce and have also chaired its Economic Development Committee. I was also voted Outstanding Person of the Year for 2015 for my efforts involving the Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor. I get involved and work for my neighbors

**REDISTRICTING:** It just makes sense. People who live in one county keep up predominately on those issues surrounding that County. I belong to woman networking groups in Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's County and I know first hand that the woman in Calvert and St. Mary's really don't pay much attention to what's going on in Charles County and I'm sure that's true in other counties.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The most significant environmental challenge is clean air. Maryland has one of the highest air quality pollution rates in the country. Emissions from cars, trucks, industrial smokestacks, trains, boats, and commercial heating systems contribute to the death of 113 people per 100,000 population per year in Maryland—more than any other state. I will take a look at it more closely when I am in offic

**DISCRIMINATION:** I am very proactive in lessening the gap when it comes to race as I have 3 roommates and 2 are African American and another is caucasian. In speaking with others today we spoke about the differences of religion and how we respect one another. I have advocated for those with disability and living below the poverty level. These are concerns in our community as more and more childred are homeless.

**EDUCATION:** A lot of money continues to fuel the state's public education fund yet it hasn't necessarily been the correct answer. It might just be better to expand charter school choices and the voucher program for children in failing schools to let them and their families decide which schools are best suited for them. I would have to look at all of the facts first to comment on how it would be funded.

**HEALTH CARE:** The most significant healthcare issue is the Opioid crisis. I will speak on it as often as I can to different groups and educate them on what they can do within their own communities. There are other health challenges that need to be adresed and I will address them one at a time once I'm in office.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation in Charles County has been an issue for 30 years. Most of our citizens commute into Washington DC just like they do from other surrounding counties and there's no short cut to it. We don't have Metro and that may be another 20 years before we do but in the meantime the preferred method is bus and car. We can improve the roadways and create a designated bus lane for a faster commute

## **Debra Davis**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.citizensfordebradavis.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Votedebradavis>

**Campaign Twitter:** twitter.com/ddavischarlesco

**Campaign Email:** [citizensfordebradavis@comcast.net](mailto:citizensfordebradavis@comcast.net)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served as County Commissioner for the past 7 years. I know the issues that are important to the residents and I am not afraid to take on the tough issues.

**REDISTRICTING:** An impartial group of bipartisan leaders can push through much needed reform by adopting some of the recommendations that have already been presented.

**ENVIRONMENT:** In my District I believe the biggest challenge to the environment are the extremists positions taken by a few individuals. It creates a divide that is not healthy for dialogue. We must find a way to engage respectful discussions and solutions that include all stakeholders.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Generally, I would support enforcement of existing federal laws already in place. Where there are loopholes at the local and State levels I support policies to strengthen

**EDUCATION:** I would support education policies vetted through stakeholders. I believe that strong schools are a fundamental part of a strong community.

**HEALTH CARE:** The most significant healthcare issues are the opioid epidemic and affordable healthcare. I will work with colleagues to find and fund solutions.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Charles County is overdue for real traffic solutions. I will work to build alliances with neighboring counties and the state to make light rail to Charles County a priority.

## **Edith J. Patterson**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://EdithPatterson.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/edith.patterson.52>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/EdithPatterson](https://twitter.com/EdithPatterson)

**Campaign Email:** [Edith1145@aol.com](mailto:Edith1145@aol.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 934-0307

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Successful 4 years as Delegate D- 28th,Chair of the Chas. Co. Delegation; Passed all county bills + bond requests; sponsored/co-sponsored key legislations; leadership role vice-chair Legislative Blk Caucus of MD; Chas. Co. elected office - Bd. of County Commissioners Vice-Chair (5 yrs.); Bd. of Education- Vice-Chair/Chair (12 yrs.); Chair Dem. Central Committee; Administrator College of So.MD.

**REDISTRICTING:** Redistricting should be for citizens by providing meaningful choices. Districts should be fair and competitive with appropriate checks and balances. The Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission with independent and non-partisan members was charged with accomplishing this task. Ultimately, it will be after the 2020 census is completed before a viable solution re: redistricting will be decided.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Voted to continue to allocate funding and restrictions that will not encumber progress; support the Bay Restoration Fund; local communities should manage home septic systems and in waste water treatment facilities through new technologies; restrictions on coal burning facilities; mgmt of soil waste. Voted for MD's participation in U.S. & Regional Climate Alliance greenhouse gas reduction.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I fully support and voted for anti-discrimination laws under various statutes, articles and codes and for Maryland legislation that makes it illegal for anyone to discriminate on the bases of: race, sex, familial status, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic testing and physical and/or mental incapacity. I voted for the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2017.

**EDUCATION:** Voted for School Safety Act; Comm. on Innovation & Excellence in Educ. (Kirwan Report) legislation that will begin to implement its recommendations in the fall of 2018 and the 21st Century Schools Facilities Act (Knotts Report). The state's budget will support the funding of the three initiatives along with dedicated revenues from garnered from casino lockbox referendum; Higher Education programs.

**HEALTH CARE:** Voted to curb rising cost of healthcare through the collection of suspended federal fees from insurance companies to pay for state reinsurance pool to allow insurance companies to subsidize the cost of care for high risk individual market enrollees and curb premium increase; stabilization of individual market rates; support study to explore further long-term solutions for the insurance industry.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Voted for Metro funding legislation for repairs and to ensure the safety and reliability of Metro; voted to support funding for replacements of Nice Bridge, Johnson Bridge, Purple Line and local infrastructures to facilitate more efficient travel time for commuters and transportation users. Voted to increase the amount of highway user funds to be returned to the counties, municipalities & Balt.City

## **C. T. Wilson**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.electctwilson.com>

No response received by deadline.

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## **Charles County Commissioner**

**DUTIES:** Charles County is governed by a board of five County Commissioners. Their duties include raising the revenues to fund the capital and operating budgets of County departments and agencies, providing for the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County, adopting and updating the Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance, and overseeing the development process. The President presides at meetings and hearings of the Commissioners. The President is the only full-time position.

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** The President may reside anywhere in the County. The other four Commissioners are elected at large, however, they must reside in the Commissioner Resident District they represent. These districts are realigned every 10 years following the Census.

### **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**BUDGET:** What programs within the county's budget should be increased or decreased?

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** What changes, if any, are needed in the county's land use policies?

**EDUCATION:** What steps will you take to improve support for the public schools?

**EMPLOYMENT/ JOBS:** What steps should the county government take to encourage economic development and job growth?

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** What steps would you take to increase the availability of affordable housing for county residents?

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** How would you address issues such as traffic congestion, transportation needs, and improvements to public facilities in the county?

## **Charles County Commissioner District 1**

### **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Joe Crawford**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.charlescounty.us>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/4joe.crawford/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/Joe\\_Crawford](https://twitter.com/Joe_Crawford)

**Campaign Email:** [joe@us2000.org](mailto:joe@us2000.org)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 705-5433

No response received by deadline.

#### **Gilbert "B.J." Bowling**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.gilbertbowling.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/bj.bowling.52>

**Campaign Instagram:** Instagram Gilbert Bowling

No response received by deadline.

## **Donta Varney**

**Write-in**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/FaithfulServant89>

**Campaign Email:** [dontavarney1@aol.com](mailto:dontavarney1@aol.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 850-5605

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My experience that I have is a real life experience. I am currently homeless and have no job. I want to run to help the people like me to sustain housing and jobs. I am an advocate for the homeless and fight everyday for the rights of the people. It takes a person who is in a situation to see what we are going through and know what it needs to fix it. This is a honor to run for office and help the people.

**BUDGET:** The Homeless population is very high in this county and there is no shelter here in Charles County. We need more grants and a bigger budget to help the homeless with housing and giving them a tent to live in the woods with. The Budget should be bigger and room to help everyone who has nowhere to live or at the edge of becoming homeless.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** I have no issues with the county land use policy

**EDUCATION:** Better Background Checks for all teachers, staff and volunteers. Raise the pay rate for teachers so that we have a better ratio between teacher/student. There should be no substitute teachers on the first day of school or a lot of teachers leaving at the end of the school year. We have done great with school security with secured logins and allowing visitors to be allowed in the building.

**EMPLOYMENT / JOBS:** *No response received by deadline.*

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** *No response received by deadline.*

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** *No response received by deadline.*

## **Charles County Commissioner District 2**

### **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Thomasina "Sina" Coates**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.votethomasinacoates.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://VoteThomasinaCoates>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/sinacoates](http://twitter.com/sinacoates)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Having 30 years in the Information Technology workforce as an Information Technology Manager for the Federal government; managing and budgeted multi-million dollar Information Technology (IT) projects and business infrastructure; facilitating customer growth through business savvy techniques utilizing policy, budget, continuous improvement, labor relations and safety/security.

**BUDGET:** All programs should be evaluated quarterly for budgetary deficiencies or efficiencies. The main two programs that should never be subject to budget decreases are educating our children and public safety.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Policy changes for development and land use are inevitable as we move into each decade or less. There is always a delicate balance between development and land use, but we all know both are needed to sustain a quality of life for all of our Charles County citizens. Evaluate the policy for sufficient balance and quality.

**EDUCATION:** With these challenging times, school safety is of the utmost importance. I will support all necessary resources to keeping our children safe; resources to educate our children in STEM; resources to compensate our teachers accordingly. We must remember: Every student matters, every student counts!

**EMPLOYMENT / JOBS:** To encourage economic development and job growth for our county, we need to streamline our application approval process, provide tax incentive programs, and improved infrastructure for companies wanting to do business in our county. We know that quality jobs change lives.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Some possible incentives to take to increase the availability of affordable/workforce housing are: For builders to build in economically depressed areas. Provide incentives for builders to renovate abandoned and forfeited buildings into affordable workforce homes. Affording our citizens the opportunity to living the affordable dream, at last!

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** I have four words for our infrastructure: The future is now! Infrastructure is the backbone for county operations. We need to find innovative and creative ways to improve the quality of

life for all by implementing one or more of these transportation/infrastructure options: Ride-share programs, express lanes, over paths and last but not least, light rail.

### **Stanley R. Hayes**

**Green Party**

No response received by deadline.

## **Charles County Commissioner District 3**

### **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Amanda Stewart**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://Www.electamandastewart.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://AmandaStewart>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/electAmanda](http://twitter.com/electAmanda)

**Campaign Email:** [Info@electamandastewart.com](mailto:Info@electamandastewart.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Amanda first term's voting record and her community involvement offers leadership experience which will allow Amanda to continue to ensure all Charles County residents quality of life is protected and improved. As a teacher and mom, Amanda's ability to listen and communicate to all stakeholders help Charles County work with state officials to ensure state programs and roads receive funding.

**BUDGET:** Amanda has worked the past 3 1/2 years to ensure that the budget was sound and addressed the majority of needs by all county departments and agencies. During her term, Charles County has not raised property tax rates or income tax rates while ensuring that teachers received step increases and county staff received steps.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Amanda understands the need to ensure that land use policies help to protect the county future. Amanda is interested in zoning regulations and supporting the needs of the diverse community.

**EDUCATION:** Over the next four years, Amanda will continue to request funding to support school renovation projects to help improve schools. Amanda believes, she has the opportunity to make a huge impact regarding the quality of our children's education. Amanda will continue to make budget decisions that provide teachers raises.

**EMPLOYMENT/ JOBS:** Amanda believes that the internal reorganization of the economic department will continue to improve Charles County ability to attract and retain businesses. Amanda believes that Charles County's locality supports an increase focus on tourism to help the economic growth in the county.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Amanda is continuing to have conversations about how we can have more workforce housing. Charles County is known to have affordable homes. However, we are missing a group of professionals that has a difficult time buying a house in Charles County. Amanda is interested in updating land use policies to help create Workforce housing initiative.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Amanda will continue to improve county roads and work with the state to improve state roads. Amanda's goal to improve public facilities is evident in the new Waldorf Senior and Recreational Center opening in 2018. She looks forward to working with the community and her colleagues to continue to improve public facilities.

# Charles County Commissioner District 4

## Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **James Ashburn**

**Republican Party**

No response received by deadline.

### **Bobby Rucci**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.electbobbyrucci.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/electbobbyrucci>

**Campaign Email:** [electbobbyrucci@gmail.com](mailto:electbobbyrucci@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 742-8969

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As the owner of a small business in Charles County, I am unique among the County Commissioners for my first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by the local business community. In light of this I have consistently fought to lower the tax and regulatory burdens put on small businesses in Charles County and will continue to do so.

**BUDGET:** Funding for the CCPSC and CC Sheriff's Dept must be increased. Without quality education and strong public safety we will not flourish. Additional funding to fight the opioid & heroin epidemic is also crucial. Current Commissioners "pet projects" such as a multi cultural center need to be unfunded. Funding should also be cut for unnecessary staff in the Commissioners office.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** The recent watershed downzoning in Charles County harmed 9,800 County property owners. This new district effectively destroyed the value of 37,000 acres of land, current and future economic development and will rob families in Charles County through higher property taxes. I am ready to take on the repeal of this land grab and return property right to the citizens.

**EDUCATION:** I will continue to work with the CC Public School system and Board of Education to improve our students education and our teachers careers. I am currently working to bring our teachers starting salaries to a range that will make us competitive in the State. I recently supported \$5.8M in additional funding earmarked directly to safety in our schools.

**EMPLOYMENT/ JOBS:** We have much potential as a County to increase revenues from a commercial and industrial tax base. With our close proximity to the Nations Capital and our airport we have the potential to attract new businesses and foster current ones. There is no need for Charles County to have the highest property taxes in the State any longer. This can be accomplished in a balanced smart growth manner.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** As a licensed REALTOR I know the importance of affordable housing in a community. As a Commissioner I will continue to work toward affordable housing in our County.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** For the past three years, I have voted for the completion of Western Parkway to end grid-lock in Waldorf. Had the majority of the Commissioners voted with me in 2015, this much needed road improvement could be finished by now. It is unjust for 70% of residents to be stuck in traffic every day for the last three years waiting for the majority to finally approve this project during an election year.

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# Charles County Commission President

**DUTIES:** Charles County is governed by a board of five County Commissioners. Their duties include raising the revenues to fund the capital and operating budgets of County departments and agencies, providing for the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County, adopting and updating the Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance, and overseeing the development process. The President presides at meetings and hearings of the Commissioners. The President is the only full-time position.

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** The President may reside anywhere in the County. The other four Commissioners are elected at large, however, they must reside in the Commissioner Resident District they represent. These districts are realigned every 10 years following the Census.

## **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**BUDGET:** What programs within the county's budget should be increased or decreased?

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** What changes, if any, are needed in the county's land use policies?

**EDUCATION:** What steps will you take to improve support for the public schools?

**EMPLOYMENT/ JOBS:** What steps should the county government take to encourage economic development and job growth?

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** What steps would you take to increase the availability of affordable housing for county residents?

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** How would you address issues such as traffic congestion, transportation needs, and improvements to public facilities in the county?

## **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Henry Thompson**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Henry Thompson for Charles County Commissioners President>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/ElectHenryThom1](https://twitter.com/ElectHenryThom1)

**Campaign Instagram:** [@electhenrythompson2018](https://www.instagram.com/electhenrythompson2018)

**Campaign Email:** [electhenrythompson@gmail.com](mailto:electhenrythompson@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 918-4661

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Prior U.S. Army reservist and active duty followed by Federal government employee with 41+ years of service. Previously ran for elected positions on a fire department board of directors, successfully won three of three races. Served as board member, board vice-president and board president. Founding member of a volunteer fire department. Experience researching, writing & submitting grant proposals.

**BUDGET:** Individual county property tax rate is highest in State of Maryland and must be lowered.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** The recently passed Water Conservation District (WCD) in Western Charles County should be repealed.

**EDUCATION:** Financial support should be available for decisions made and policies implemented by the Charles County Board of Education. They are an elected body by the voters and will receive my support as appropriate.

**EMPLOYMENT/ JOBS:** Less interference for new business startups. Streamlined permits process(es) for current businesses to allow business to spend less time administratively and allow more time operating their businesses throughout our communities.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Housing cannot be affordable under the Water Conservation District (WCD) due to the requirement of 20 acres of land per house. Households earning a marginal annual income cannot afford property taxes under the WCD's onerous requirements

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Rapid bus transit seems to be the short term & fastest to implement part of a solution to commuting problems. Long term solution would be a statewide commuter train system. Keeping traffic signal devices up-to-date with the most current technology must also be examined.

### **Reuben B. Collins II**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.votereubencollins.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** [http://Vote Reuben Collins](https://www.facebook.com/Vote Reuben Collins)

**Campaign Email:** [rburtonc@yahoo.com](mailto:rburtonc@yahoo.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am an attorney and former two-term member of the Board of Commissioners (2006-2014) I've proven that I can work with my fellow commissioners to produce actual programs that benefit the community.

**BUDGET:** Reinstate the county's summer youth employment program that I started which provided

employment opportunities for nearly 300 youth between 2012 and 2016. Also increase the county's capital budget.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Future land use policies should reflect the will of the people and not the ideological beliefs of our elected officials. Watershed Conservation Districts are generally a good thing however the application of the county's version was decided without respecting the wishes of the land owners affected by the decision. I will work with my colleagues to repeal or amend the present WCD.

**EDUCATION:** Education spending will remain a priority. We will continue to seek funding for education that exceeds state mandated funding levels. My plan to invest in infrastructure projects will provide badly needed funding for education.

**EMPLOYMENT / JOBS:** Our comprehensive economic development plan would focus on International Trade and Business Development, Renewable Energy, Research and Development Incubators and Alternative Farming Initiatives. The plan will focus on building up the County's present population of small and disadvantaged businesses. The county should consider establishment of a separate MBE Enforcement office led by a MBE Dir.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I will reinstate the former Housing Authority and also seek funding to establish a Housing Trust Fund. A Housing Authority under Maryland law has the authority to develop housing policy. It has fiscal authority to make mortgage loans, issue bonds, and mortgage subsidy payments as construction loans.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Waldorf Urban Redevelopment, Maryland Airport Indian Head Tech Park, Enhanced Transportation Program (improve travel within Waldorf's urban core) , County wide high speed internet and Light Rail.

## **Chris Dudley**

**Green Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://electchrisdudley.us>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Elect-Chris-Dudley-282018892615900/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/ElectDudley](https://twitter.com/ElectDudley)

**Campaign Email:** [electchrisdudley@gmail.com](mailto:electchrisdudley@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 300-6449

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've held elected and appointed office in the past. I was elected Treasurer for the Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawaii and President of the Lackey High School Performing Arts Boosters. I serve on the Board of the Mattawoman Watershed Society and served on a Red Team for NASA. Most of all I have been active in making Charles County a better place to live.

**BUDGET:** The top goal of my campaign is to keep the AAA credit rating earned by Charles County through the efforts of Commissioners Murphy, Stewart and Robinson. This means good governance through responsible budgeting (no \$6.4 million land speculation snafus like Mr. Collins). Our good rating means capital investment can help to aid teacher retention through reinstating housing support for new teachers.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Delays in implementing the zoning required by the Comprehensive Plan stem in part from the lateness of the Comprehensive Plan and in part from transient staffing. This is impeding planning and limiting new business opportunities. Staff need support in training to speed up zoning implementation and we must avoid delaying the next Comprehensive Plan with backroom deals like Mr. Collins' BGI fiasco.

**EDUCATION:** Teacher retention support is proper for County investment. Maryland has access to VW settlement money (\$75.7 million). It would be appropriate to work with Bus Contractors and SMECO to implement a pilot program in electric school busses. A clean ride to school is known to improve readiness to learn. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001792>

**EMPLOYMENT / JOBS:** Limiting Sprawl Development and encouraging Smart Growth as laid out in the Comprehensive Plan not only reduces upward pressure on property tax rates, it also increases less encumbered tax revenue by supporting the development of small business. Working for walkable-bikeable communities in Indian Head, La Plata and Waldorf opens substantial retail opportunities. See my website for much more.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Charles County knows how to do affordable housing and it isn't poorly planned townhouse developments. Communities like Potomac Heights and Brawners Estates have concentrated on single family affordable home ownership with success. For entry level teachers and other county employees, reinstating lower cost rental accommodations that allow saving towards home ownership is

needed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** This campaign strongly supports light rail to Waldorf and proposes cooperation with the Metropolitan Planning Organization In St Mary's and Calvert to extent to Solomons. Retaining bicycle/safety lanes on the Nice Bridge replacement is also important. Increased employment in Smart Growth areas will also help reduce commuting traffic New 21st century flooding issues need to be addressed (website).

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## Judicial Offices

### Charles County Circuit Court Judge

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Circuit Court, which is a trial court that hears major civil cases and more serious criminal cases, such as those requiring a jury trial. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

**SALARY:** \$159,433.

**TERM:** Fifteen years, no term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

**HOW ELECTED:** The state is divided into 8 Judicial Circuits. The General Assembly determines the number of judges in each circuit and county. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office. Each newly appointed Circuit Court judge then must stand for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. One or more other qualified members of the bar may also run to fill the vacancy. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots.

#### The Issues

**Qualifications:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**Discrimination:** How can the courts address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**Court Needs:** What are the greatest needs of Maryland's court system and how can these be addressed?

#### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

##### **Donine Marie Carrington**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.keepourjudges2018.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://keepJudgeCarrington>

**Campaign Instagram:** keepjudgecarrington

**Campaign Email:** [keepjudgecarrington@gmail.com](mailto:keepjudgecarrington@gmail.com)

**Qualifications:** As a practicing attorney for over 22 years, who comes from a diverse background, my legal experience has earned me the respect as expert litigator. I was also able to utilize my 15 years as a college professor to assist in communicating with all types of people. I am a servant leader who loves to serve as evidenced by my extensive community involvement.

**Discrimination:** The Courts can address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty by providing equal and fair access to justice and the courts.

**Court Needs:** The greatest need is to provide fair and equal access to the courts. This can be accomplished through education of the public.

##### **William R. Greer, Jr.**

**Campaign Website:** <http://keepourjudges2018.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=keep%20our%20judges%202018>

**Campaign Email:** [keepjudgegreer@gmail.com](mailto:keepjudgegreer@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 752-4735

**Qualifications:** Since becoming a Circuit Court Judge I have handled a variety of cases of cases. I utilized my wide variety of experiences, including my legal, military and community experience, to assist me in quickly stepping into the role of Judge. Before my appointment to the bench, I was a practicing lawyer for 25 years, handling many types of cases. I also served 30 years in the National Guard.

**Discrimination:** As a Judge, it is my job to make sure that every litigant who appears in my courtroom feels that they have been treated fairly, honestly and with empathy. I work to insure that all litigants have an opportunity to have their concerns heard and fairly addressed by the Court, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability or economic status. I strive to insure processes that are fair to all.

**Court Needs:** I strive to make sure all residents of Charles County feel they have fair and impartial access to the court system. I intend to continue to work to assist all shareholders in the legal system to develop programs that give the Circuit Court more tools to resolve issues. It is important that Judges have options in cases such as counseling, mental health treatment and/or drug treatment.

## Judge in Court of Special Appeals (At-Large)

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans' Court in cases brought before it. The Court, usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent. The Court is composed of 15 judges: eight at large and one each from seven appellate judicial districts.

**SALARY:** \$168,633 annual base.

**TERM:** Ten years, no term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

**HOW ELECTED:** When there is a vacancy on the Court of Special Appeals, the governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office, with the consent of the State Senate. Once appointed, the appellate judge holds the office until the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. At that time, the judge runs for an uncontested election for a ten-year term on their record (yes or no for continuance in office). No one is permitted to file against them. If the incumbent judge is approved, the judge faces another "retention election" every ten years to continue in office. If the incumbent judge is rejected by the voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment.

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**DISCRIMINATION:** How can the courts address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**COURT NEEDS:** What are the greatest needs of Maryland's court system and how can these be addressed?

### Candidates

Vote to confirm or not to confirm each candidate.

#### **Donald E. Beachley**

No response received by deadline.

#### **Matthew J. Fader**

No response received by deadline.

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## Charles County State's Attorney

**DUTIES:** The State's Attorney's Office is a constitutionally created independent agency. The State's Attorney is the chief prosecutor for criminal violations; and educates the public about criminal justice issues, provides training to lawyers for future service, addresses inequality and promote fairness in the criminal justice system, ensures access to the criminal justice system, promotes professional relations with judges and attorneys, and seeks to further the efficient use of criminal justice resources.

**SALARY:** \$114,527

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected countywide.

### **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you implement to prevent discrimination in law enforcement?

**ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON:** In what situations would you recommend alternatives to prison in sentencing persons convicted of crimes?

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS:** How will you address the growing problem of substance abuse?

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** How will you address the problems of domestic violence?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

### **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Anthony "Tony" Covington**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.votetonycovington.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://vote tony covington>

No response received by deadline.

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## **Charles County Clerk of the Circuit Court**

**DUTIES:** The Clerk of the Circuit Court oversees the office that performs many administrative duties for the Circuit Court including the maintenance of court records. Other duties include recording of deeds and collecting taxes and fees based on property transactions, issuing licenses for fishing, hunting, sales of liquor and marriage. They also perform civil wedding ceremonies and process passport applications.

**SALARY:** Salaries for Clerks of the Circuit Court salaries vary by the size of the county and are approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected countywide.

### **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**AREAS OF NEED:** What are the areas of greatest need in the Clerk's office and how would you address them?

**ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC:** How will you improve service by the Clerk's office to the public?

**PRIORITIES:** In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

### **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Sharon "Sherri" Hancock**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** [http://Sharonlynnhancock@yahoo.Com](mailto:Sharonlynnhancock@yahoo.Com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have 38 years of experience and knowledge working with the Maryland State Judiciary as a clerk, with 12.5 years serving as an appointed/elected clerk. I have served on several committees to include President of the Maryland Clerks' Association, Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, Judicial Council, Court Access and Community Relations Committee as well as many other committees.

**AREAS OF NEED:** As the County continues to grow we are challenged with the need for additional operational space. Programs are being implemented with electronic filing of pleadings for judicial cases (MDEC) and electronic recordings for land records ( e-recording) as well as providing customers alternative methods to include electronic juror qualification submission ; reducing our need for additional file rooms.

**ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC:** We will continue to provide exceptional service with the access to Justice to all our customers.

**PRIORITIES:** My highest priority is maintaining the highest level of integrity, professionalism and service along with accurate records and emphasizing our responsibilities of public trust and confidence to all employees in the Clerks's Office.

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## Charles County Register of Wills

**DUTIES:** The Register of Wills assists the general public with administrative processes concerning estates of deceased persons. The Register collects Maryland inheritance tax on estates and probate fees; maintains all records of wills and estates of deceased persons; acts as clerk to the Orphans' Court; and safeguards wills of living persons who reside in the county.

**SALARY:** Salary is based on the size of the county and determined by the Maryland Board of Public Works.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected countywide.

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**AREAS OF NEED:** What are the areas of greatest need in the Orphans' Court system and how would you address them?

**ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC:** How will you improve the service provided by the Register's office to the public?

**PRIORITIES:** In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

### Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### Lorraine Davies Hennessy

Democratic Party

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Lorraine Hennessy>

**Campaign Email:** [Lorainesdh@aol.com](mailto:Lorainesdh@aol.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 648-4404

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served for 8 years & mastered the enormous responsibility of being a register. Voted by my peers to serve as President of the MD Register of Wills Assoc; a register deals with many complex issues. My 20+ years as an insurance and real estate agent, my management experience & a BS in Business Admin. has afforded me the unique opportunity to master the skills needed for the complex position.

**AREAS OF NEED:** Throughout my 8 years, I've learned people need to be better educated on the process of probate. Know the facts before experiencing a death. Death is not an easy topic to approach. I've made it a priority to bring my services to the people. I spend weekends and evenings talking to anyone & everyone while working 40+ hrs. I'm always prepared to give inquiring minds my ear and literature.

**ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC:** A constant volunteer & attendee of many organizations, I'm available & approachable to discuss issues. As president of the Assoc., I make sure all registers have the technology, training and knowledge available to operate efficiently. Our web site is a great resource of info. It's reflective of the newest changes in the laws. With technology, I'll improve efficiency & continue outreach programs.

**PRIORITIES:** I am business savvy, budget conscience and community oriented so I will continue to give superior service, educate the public and above all be compassionate.

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# **Charles County Judge of the Orphans' Court**

**DUTIES:** The Maryland Orphans' Court is the state's probate court. It also has jurisdiction over guardianship of minors. The Orphans' Court supervises the handling of estates of people who have died – with or without a will – while owning property in their sole name.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limits.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected countywide. Candidates for Orphans' Court Judge must be Maryland citizens and residents of their jurisdiction for at least 12 months before their election.

## **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**DISCRIMINATION:** How can the courts address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

**COURT NEEDS:** What are the greatest needs of the Orphans' Court and how can these be addressed?

## **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **J. Lorraine Berry**

**Democratic Party**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been serving the citizens of Charles County since 2006 as their Orphan's Court Associate Judge. I have gained much experience in those 12 years. This position is very close to my heart. In the late 1960's my own family suffered a tragedy. I realized then, the importance of guardianships and estate proceedings and the impact it has on a family.

**DISCRIMINATION:** As a persons who gives relentlessly to the community, I have compassion for all people regardless of race, gender, religion, disability or poverty. I am active in LifeStyles of So. Md, Relay for Life, board member for Old Waldorf School, member, usher and chair of the food pantry for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, volunteer "Reading Buddy" at Neale Elementary School. I give service to all.

**COURT NEEDS:** Having families understand the process of probate and being able to make families communicate amongst each other is the greatest need. I constantly tell people to keep lines of communication open, don't be afraid to ask the register's office for help and be kind to each other as everyone is grieving over the loss of a loved one.

### **Darlene M. Breck**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.citizenstoelectbreck>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/CitizensToElectBreck/>

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 848-1234

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Decades as a Charles County entrepreneur, Chamber of Commerce president, Hospital Foundation Board Chairman, and a passionate supporter of Lifestyles, caring for families in crisis. As current Chief Judge of the Orphans' Court, I work to ensure justice is served with compassion and caring. My main achievement has been to give every person who comes before the Orphans' Court the chance to be heard.

**DISCRIMINATION:** To guard against discrimination in the Orphan's Court I have ensured that three important processes are always followed. a. Every individual is treated with respect by the court b. Every individual is provided adequate opportunity to explain his/her issues and concerns before the court c. The rulings of the court are founded in the non-discriminatory laws of Maryland Estates and Trusts.

**COURT NEEDS:** The greatest need is educating the community about the functions of the Orphans' Court so that people know how the court can help them when they are dealing with the loss of a loved one and the potential complexities of the financial and personal aftermath. By being involved in community leadership roles the judges create more opportunities for education and awareness of what the court really does

## **Reginald Kearney**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Vote For Reginald Kearney>

**Campaign Email:** [reggiekearney@aol.com](mailto:reggiekearney@aol.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 661-3989

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Minister and someone who has worked in the community and worked with families during a loss of a loved one, and having experienced the loss of my Father years ago, I understand the work that goes in closing out the estate of a deceased person. I also considered myself a loving, caring, and compassionate person, all of which will help me perform my duties.

**DISCRIMINATION:** When it comes to addressing discrimination, the court must address the issue by having the conversation among the court employees first. The court must identify the issues causing this problem and work at removing the problem by doing seminars and teaching the public that all people are created equal.

**COURT NEEDS:** I don't see any major issues facing the court and I have not heard of any issues concerning the court in Charles County. I feel that we must continue being a compassionate court for those citizens who need the Orphan Courts assistance.

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## **Charles County Sheriff**

**DUTIES:** The sheriff performs law enforcement functions, carries out court orders, delivers summonses, and executes bench warrants, and supervises the county corrections facility except in counties where a separate corrections department has been established.

**SALARY:** \$70,000 effective January 1, 2015.

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

## **The Issues**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY:** How would you reach out to county residents to improve public safety?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What policies will you implement to prevent discrimination in law enforcement?

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

What specific role could this office play in confronting the epidemic of opioid abuse?

## **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Troy Berry**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://ccso.us>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Friends-to-Elect-Troy-Berry>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/tberry4sheriff](http://twitter.com/tberry4sheriff)

**Campaign Email:** [berryt@ccso.us](mailto:berryt@ccso.us)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 609-6543

**QUALIFICATIONS:** \* 26 years in law enforcement \* 2014 Elected as the Sheriff of Charles County \* Commander of Patrol Operations \* Commander of the Waldorf District Station \* Commander and Assistant Commander of Internal Affairs \* Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division \* Supervisor in the Patrol Division \* Officer in the Patrol Division \* 2000 and 1995 Baltimore Sun Police Officer of the Year

**OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY:** Programs currently offered at the Sheriff's Office: \* Citizen's Police Academy for Adults \* Annual Prayer Breakfast for the Faith Based Community \* Basketball Camps for youth \* Football Camps for the youth \* Soccer Camps for girls \* Baseball and Softball Camps for the youth \* Hope Trailer for the Parents Affected By Addiction \* Drug Awareness Summer Camp for the youth

**DISCRIMINATION:** I have hired a Director of Recruitment to create more diversity within the Charles

County Sheriff's Office in the areas of police, corrections and civilian career opportunities. Our goal is an agency more reflective of the community we serve. The Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer promoting professionalism, respect, integrity, duty and excellence throughout the community.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** The men and women of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are dedicated to service through superior performance. This agency believes in mutual respect, trust and pride in our organization, combined with traditional values and innovative techniques, will ensure the community's right to a safe environment.

**What specific role could this office play in confronting the epidemic of opioid abuse?** This agency is fighting the opioid epidemic with a four pronged approach: 1) Educating the youth through drug awareness programs 2) Enforcement actions with our local, state and federal partners targeting the drug dealers 3) Working with our local and state health officials to identify and direct users to rehabilitation facilities 4) Assisting the faith-based community with reentry programs

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## Charles County Board of Education

**DUTIES:** The Board of Education of Charles County provides direction for and establishes educational policy governing Charles County Public Schools. Board Members also have final authority over budgets, curriculum, personnel appointments, capital improvements and land acquisition. The Board Members appoint the Superintendent of Schools to manage the day-to-day operations of the school system.

**TERM:** 4 years, with staggered terms as half the members elected every two years.

**HOW ELECTED:** Board Members are elected at-large by the county's voting residents.

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** How would you rank the priorities of education needs, including teacher retention, class size, and school buildings?

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** How should the national and state standards be used to ensure a quality education for each child in the county?

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** What programs will you support to prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** How will you address school safety issues such as gangs, bullying, and substance abuse?

**PARTNERSHIPS:** How will you promote partnerships with businesses and community organizations to improve the educational experience of our students?

**PRIORITIES:** In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

### Candidates

*Vote for no more than 7.*

#### Jennifer S. Abell

**Campaign Website:** <http://abell4edu.blogspot.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://JenniferAbell>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/jennifer\\_abell](http://twitter.com/jennifer_abell)

**Campaign Instagram:** [Instagram : JenniferSABell](http://Instagram : JenniferSABell)

**Campaign Email:** [abell4edu@verizon.net](mailto:abell4edu@verizon.net)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 659-4112

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have four grown children that have attended and graduated from Charles County Public Schools in addition to myself. I have served 14 consecutive successful years on the Board of Education. Throughout those years I have accomplished greater transparency including but not limited to televising the board meetings, implementing a BYOD policy, and changing our APFO formula.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** 1. Teacher recruitment and retention. 2. School safety, discipline, mental health, school psychologist 3. CTE program expansion and availability 4. Continue transparency and ability to reach parents through technology

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** If the testing is used to both identify accomplishment AND used as a tool

to promote learning - with specific content areas identified to both educators and parents as mastered objectives, or not, and the educational program affected to enhance learning - great. If standardized testing is used a determining factor in the success or failure of a teacher - that is unfair and a misuse of the testing

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** All students are NOT college-ready, nor are their life or educational needs met by a traditional four-year college program. A failure to admit this, as a system and as educators, is a failure to prepare all of our students to be College and CAREER ready. I would like to work toward increasing not only the CTE offerings but the availability.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** SRO's in all schools, upgrading school entry ways to divert public traffic through the main office, adding panic buttons to the main office, adding additional school psychologist and hiring administrative personnel to handle schedules and career advising while leaving out current counselors to counsel,

**PARTNERSHIPS:** I'm actively involved not only on the county level with local businesses and governments but also on the state and national level. I leverage my contacts and form strategic alliances to further advance the needs of the school system.

**PRIORITIES:** Same as mentioned under budget priorities: 1. Teacher recruitment and retention. 2. School safety, discipline, mental health, school psychologist 3. CTE program expansion and availability 4. Continue transparency and ability to reach parents through technology

## Tajala "Taj" Battle-Lockhart

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**Campaign Phone:** (240) 431-8365

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My experience as a Hospitality Professional, Adjunct Instructor, Substitute, and Nonprofit leader will allow me to connect with the teachers, students, staff and administrators with a spirit to serve. In addition, understanding how to connect with students especially at-risk students, strategic planning, and managing and controlling budgets.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Teacher retention would be number one because without teachers you can't control the class size. School Buildings and maintenance is the next priority because if a building is not well maintained it tends to create class size challenges depending on the needs of the building it may require a school to put classroom out of service. Addressing these could support with controlling class sizes.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** I feel both standards and testing should be structured in such a way that it is balanced to allow teachers to the time to deliver instruction effectively to drive better testing results statewide and nationwide. I feel that the school system is overwhelmed with limited staffing, increased testing, and common core which hinders the systems to produce successful results consistently.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I am an advocate for Vocational Training as I am a Hospitality Educator. I believe all schools especially high schools should have a variety of vocational training that offer industry recognized certifications, so students can transition into a career of choice, military should be an option as well, and entrepreneurship courses for students that have business ideas they would like to launch.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I believe currently the school system is more reactive versus proactive. I feel ongoing assemblies, workshops, and/or clubs should be offered at the very least on a quarterly basis to keep awareness and dialogue at the front to address all the above topics as well as child abuse/sexual abuse and cyber issues. This will allow the school system the opportunity to better equip the students.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** School system continue to say there is not enough time to add any additional support throughout the school day. This is partnership opportunity come in especially with nonprofits. Nonprofit Youth organizations offer services and have the staff that is needed to support any additional needs students may have. i.e. Strong aftercare programs can support in tutoring students which drives success.

**PRIORITIES:** I would like to structure the Board strategically, so it will result in touching every school to foster healthy relationships with staff, teachers, students, and administration, hosting site visits which will bring forth successes and failures across the county which fosters healthy dialogue between the board members to then create a strategic plan which will produce consent results in county.

## **Elizabeth "Liz" Brown**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** I feel my many years of experience as a classroom teacher, my work as a pupil personnel worker , and President of my local teachers union gives me insight into every level of education in the public school system.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Teacher retention, class size and school buildings are all important in education. Recruiting and retaining quality educators is paramount to providing a quality education for all students on every level. With the diverse needs of today's students it's important for schools to provide smaller class sizes so that all needs can be met. Buildings need to provide for safety as well as academics.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Testing should provide the teacher with data as to what the student is lacking and what improvements need to take place. There should be national standards for education which allow for local and state input.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I think it is mistake to believe that every student is going to college. I believe that every student should receive an education that is addressing his/her potential to be a productive citizen. More alternative solutions need to be investigated in order to ensure career choices for all students.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Gangs , bullying and substance abuse are issues that effect all of society. The breakdown of the family has greatly contributed to these issues along with social media, and violence in our society. School is not the place for gangs, bullying and drugs. Our schools need more resources to set up programs in the community to address these issues. Identification and referral for help is key.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Reaching out to business partners to provide mentoring and internship programs will help students with career opportunities. Letting businesses know that we welcome their expertise in our schools is important. We welcome not only their expertise but resources as well.

**PRIORITIES:** Parent support is important in a students education. I would like to bring back the involvement and support that parents once had in their students education as well as the respect for the education profession that has declined over the years. In order for success in education there needs to be student motivation, parent support, and qualified educators with the necessary resources .

## **Dottery Butler-Washington**

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**Campaign Phone:** (240) 685-6711

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a mother, grandparent, business owner and a taxpayer. I have not only been an advocate for my children and grandchildren, but I believe that I can be that same advocate for all students. As a business owner and federal government worker, I understand what it takes to work with, and for, people of very diverse backgrounds and personalities.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Budget priorities will be rated as followed: School building, teacher retention, and class sizes. I chose this order because increased rates of mental illness in student populations and the benefits to be gained from building a relationship-based model for school safety. The school building is our first defense in ensuring our students are safe.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** The National and State Standards should rescue public schools from over testing by instituting the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)--passed over three years ago. This will allow National and States to come up with a plan with specific requirements for our schools to close achievement gaps, increase equity, improve the quality of instruction, and increase outcomes for all students.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I will push for secondary vocational education in welding, plumbing, carpentry, electrical installation and maintenance, medical transcription and hotel and restaurant

management. I have selected these specific programs because they prepare students for employment in a specific occupational field including providing students with general employability skills and preparing them to enter paid jobs.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I would address school safety concerning gangs, bullying and substance abuse with the following strategies and services: • Addressing elevated risk factors for joining a gang • Providing training for teachers on how to manage disruptive students • Create an anti-bullying policy with clear procedures that are communicated to the whole school • Schools should promote adults/teachers as a good roles

**PARTNERSHIPS:** I would start small in building relationship with businesses by proving opportunities for them to be guest speakers, provide job shadowing opportunities, hosting student conferences, and developing mentorships and internships. These types of activities can make learning more relevant by providing real world examples to our students. In addition, partnering with business to conduct mock interviews

**PRIORITIES:** The most important priorities for this office is to be able to collaborate with all parties who have a stake in the education of our children, to include teachers, parents, Charles County officials, as well as the students in order to effectively educate students and provide them with the best opportunities to be well-rounded members in the community and responsible spending of the budget.

## **Leslie Coker**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** B.S. Political Science/Criminal Justice 2005-2006 - Est. New Beginnings Inc. - Youth expression through Arts and Entertainment 2008 - Present - Community Developer PGC Government 2009-2010 - Conducted Teen Mediation Trainings For PGCC Summer Camp 2009-2015 - Created and Facilitated Conflict Management Workshops for High Schools through MOU with PGCPSS 2011-2016 - Est. MOU with SAO Teen Court & OCR

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** My budget priorities are as follows: Infrastructure needs- adequate HVAC systems, classrooms with complete walls/doors/windows, roadways and sidewalk maintenance. Safety needs- introduce anti-bullying and alternatives to violence resources for all schools, increase building security Instruction - professional development, increase compensation, increase use of technology,

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** National and state standards should be used as a tool to gauge student performance in subject areas to help teachers design lesson plans that address student strengths and areas for improvement. To fully assess a student a combination of assessment types should be used to determine student progress which includes standardized testing, simulations and group projects.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I support entrepreneurship programs, vocational education & training, internship opportunities and community service/volunteer opportunities. For those students who want to be in arts and entertainment I want to ensure that schools have robust theatre and drama programs, a strong music department & community partners that seek young talent in entertainment/modeling, etc.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** 1. Educate students and staff about how to be safe in school and where to report unsafe activities 2. Provide gang awareness training for students, faculty & families to teach gang prevention and intervention strategies. 3. Anti-bully campaign for all grades with expected outcomes and incorporate family engagement. 4. Culture sensitivity training for faculty, staff and law enforcement.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** I would promote partnerships by reaching out to organizations and businesses that meet the needs of our school community. Many organizations and businesses want to partner with schools but it's not clear how to do it. I plan to develop a fact sheet that tells potential partners how to partner with CCBOE and individual schools.

**PRIORITIES:** Additional priorities include, recruitment of staff from diverse cultures and ethnicities, afterschool programming, student transportation, discipline and conflict management in schools.

## **David Hancock**

No response received by deadline.

## **Victoria "Vicki" Talley Kelly**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** A 4-year member of the Board, I'm a management consultant and analyst, and I can see the big picture, while handling smaller issues. The Board of Education is the largest employer in our county, and I bring my organizational and management skills with me to make good decisions for our entire system. I'm also a product of CCPS, the daughter of an educator, and a parent to three children in CCPS.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Teacher retention is a concern. Since pay has historically been lower than surrounding areas, there's competition. We've also been noticing an increase in discipline issues, which is draining on teachers, and frustrating to parents and students. Smaller class sizes promote individualized instruction; hence, better instruction. Buildings: we need buildings to do our jobs. All are important.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Standards are important to gauging how we are doing at educating our children, but they aren't the most important thing. The most important thing is that the teacher is teaching the student, the student is learning, and the parent is doing anything they can to help the student be successful at school. Standards are a comparative tool and can be used to change instruction, if needed.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** We have some great Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Career Technology Programs available, including Computer Science, Engineering, Biotech, Criminal Justice, and many more. We also have skilled trades programs, and research and projections tell us that we are facing a shortage of skilled tradesmen now, and into the foreseeable future . All of these programs are crucial to our success as a society.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I think our School Resource Officers are a great line of defense to help students make good decisions, report gang activity, learn to stand up for themselves by saying, "No!" To a bully, and to learn about the consequences of drug activity. I would like to see a 1:1 ratio of middle and high schools: SROs.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** I attended the National School Boards Conference Annual convention and observed great ideas for parent and community involvement. We could get guest speakers in from local businesses, have churches and other organizations "adopt" the closest school, provide workshops (and food) for parents to help teach their children at home how to be successful in school, and invite elected officials in.

**PRIORITIES:** Parent involvement is very important, so I'd like to stand up our countywide PTO Council to help parent leaders share ideas and collaborate. Teaching social and emotional concepts will help our students also, as "life skills" and "soft skills" is an area we are lacking, per our community survey results. Changing the mindset to valuing teachers is also very important, through pay and other means.

## **Michael "Mike" Lukas**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am an engineer who currently serves on the Board of Education. I understand the needs of the school system and the requirements of the job. I am a member of the Legislative subcommittee at MABE and the state Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel. I work collaboratively with Board members to advocate for all stakeholders in our school system, and previously received the endorsement of the EACC.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** 1-Highly qualified teachers are the most important and effective component in education. We need to pay competitive salaries (currently lowest starting salary in southern Maryland) to attract and retain quality teachers. 2-Smaller class sizes can be effective and I support this, but the highly qualified teacher is most effective. 3-We need to reduce portable classrooms through renovations.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** I firmly believe we test too much! There are other methods including access to and completion of advanced coursework, school climate, educator engagement and

postsecondary readiness. ESSA, which replaced No Child Left Behind, provides opportunity to do this, but school system needs to be aggressive in pursuing these avenues. Standardized testing is a component, not the single factor.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I am extremely proud of the vast amount of opportunities available to students in Charles County. We have a myriad of CTE (Career Technology Education) programs intended for students who wish to directly enter the workforce or pursue certifications after high school. These programs are offered throughout high schools in Charles County and the interest continues to grow. I will continue to support

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Already in place. Resource officers maintain a posture in high schools. This must expand to include middle and elementary schools. Bullying is not tolerated and all are encouraged to file a bullying form. CCPS has a direct reporting method to report suspected gang activity. Together with the county Health Department we provide counseling services for a number of challenges including addiction.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** CCPS currently has numerous partnerships with businesses and entities across the county. Our STI (Science, Technology and Industry) programs, which are part of our CTE umbrella of programs, are partnered with businesses in the county. The businesses provide job opportunity and feedback on the programs so we are able to refine them to suit the needs of our local economy.

**PRIORITIES:** Equity- Provide necessary services for students/schools that need them. As our student population continues to grow in numbers and needs, we have an obligation to serve all students. Putting forth the effort now, will pay dividends in the future. I hear "It wasn't like that when I was in school". Times change, and we need to adapt. School discipline-provide structure, but also accountability.

## **Margaret T. Marshall**

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No response received by deadline.

## **Virginia "Ginny" McGraw**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a retired educator. My 45 years of experience in the classroom and in administrative positions, in a variety of settings, qualifies me to be a member of the Charles County Board of Education. My knowledge of the school system and school-based experiences has prepared me to address a wide variety of challenges that face our students and teachers today.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** My top budget priorities would be teacher compensation and retention, resources to provide and maintain safe and secure schools, teachers for enrollment to decrease class size and address the needs of our rapidly growing special education and ELL populations, professional development for professional and support personnel, capital projects to maintain school buildings, and mentoring programs.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** The national and state standards provide a consistent set of guidelines for every school district. They ensure that there is equal access to educational resources so that every child has the opportunity to succeed in schools, careers and in life. The standards do not require that all students receive the exact same resources, but to have equal access to resources to meet individual needs.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** Our school system provides a continuum of programs to address a variety of student career choices. There are opportunities for students to explore career related courses that reflect Maryland's key industries. I support Career and Technology education that includes information and technology, manufacturing and production, health and life sciences and finance and professional services.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** The best way to address these issues is to educate our students on a consistent basis. Students need to understand the dangers of substance abuse, gang membership and the consequences of bullying at an early age through classroom instruction, specialized programs and guest speakers. Knowledge of resources that are available is key as well. Additionally, parent programs would be beneficial.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Developing collaborative relationships with businesses and local organizations can lead to enriching students learning experiences. Stakeholders can be invited to be mentors, guest speakers, readers and to be members of advisory boards in our schools. Business partnerships can provide job shadowing and internships experiences for our students to provide real life experiences.

**PRIORITIES:** In addition to school safety and teacher compensation and retention, my priorities include advocating for additional evidence/research-based programs to address discipline, seeking equity in schools for all children so that each child has the resources he/she needs to be successful and being responsive to the expressed needs and concerns of our stakeholders.

### **Barbara "Barb" Palko**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** Locally, I have classroom, administrative & leadership experience with Charles County Public Schools. As the current Board of Education chair, I have knowledge of school system policies, daily operations & the budget process. Statewide, I was on the Governor's Task Force on Adult High Schools & the Kirwan Commission Advisory Committee. These experiences bring awareness of current issues & concerns

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** 1.Operating Budget: Higher salary compensation to retain teachers and for certifications earned by our support staff personnel Additional personnel; counselors, behavior specialists, IAs, & teachers (reduce class size) 2.Capital Improvement Program Budget: Construction of security enhancements in our schools (walls, entryways) Continue to renovate aging buildings for equitable facilities

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** A baseball team has the flexibility to determine how many pitchers to hire, who will play what position, lineup, & defense, as long as there is a 40 man roster. Same is true in education; each county adds pacing guides, lesson designs, strategies, materials of instruction, & resources in developing a curriculum specific to the needs of each child, as long as it is based on national/state standards

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I advocate for ALL Career &Technical Education (CTE) programs, formally known as vocational education. As the CTE coordinator for Charles County Public Schools, I supervised the implementation of CTE programs, all of which prepare students for careers & college. Students completing CTE programs have the opportunity to enter the workforce, apply to a post-secondary technical school or to college.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** The school system has hired a Director of School Safety & Security and established a Security Advisory Council. Recommendations currently being implemented are; online incident reporting, volunteer registration & screening program, expansion of background checks for all employees, construction of guided entry vestibules, and all potential threats from our 'See Something, Say Something' Campaign.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** I attend hundreds of community/school related events networking with families, stakeholders & community members such as; the Chamber of Commerce & County Economic Development Department events. The school system & the College of Southern MD have a strong partnership with our CTE Teacher Academy of MD & STEM programs. Our Career Research & Development CTE program has many community job connections.

**PRIORITIES:** 1.Meet the needs of every child so teachers can teach & students can learn 2.Ensure each child receives an education with equitable opportunities 3.Advocate for a budget that meets the needs of the school system 4.Commit to open, honest communication with the community 5.Support the school system's achievement goals 6.Continue to be AVAILABLE to families & staff and RESPONSIVE to their concerns

### **Robert Michael Pitts**

No response received by deadline.

## **Nashonda Sherrod**

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**Campaign Email:** [info@votenashonda.com](mailto:info@votenashonda.com)  
**Campaign Phone:** (240) 381-3801

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a former Educator for Anne Arundel County Public schools as well as a graduate from Charles County Public Schools. I believe that as an educator and a student, I've seen education from various perspectives. I am passionate about making an impact in the areas of district policies and annual budget as well as courses of study, textbooks and career preparedness.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** I would have to rank the priority of educational needs in the order of Textbooks, Classroom/Curriculum materials based on subject, Teacher retention, Educator Trainings, Class size, parent involvement appreciation events, School Buildings, Snack time

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** The national and state standards, The Common Core State Standards, are vital to ensure that all students receive an education that prepares them for growth. These standards should provide students with knowledge and test them to make sure the knowledge is obtained. If not, then changes should be made in the classroom curriculum nation and state wide to ensure success.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I would love to be able to introduce mandatory vocational options into every middle and high school in the areas of Beauty, Business, Hospitality, Automotive, etc. It is always a benefit to have a trade. It is also beneficial to have after school training/community service courses to build leadership and accountability in students.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Prevention meetings/assemblies should be held in elementary, middle and high schools to discuss and view videos on the harmful effects of gangs, bullying and substance abuse. It may even be a benefit to bring in recovered addicts who can speak from personal experience from a motivational speaking standpoint.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Community Outreach and Business Involvement is vital. Career days and field service days should be incorporated. Local field trips and Hands on trainings from local businesses to express community importance is what students need to create a standard of professionalism for their future.

**PRIORITIES:** My Priority is for educational safety. This means focusing on diffusing Student Apathy/Violence, the Heroin Epidemic/Drug use and ensuring Career Readiness. If we provide students with options, they will have various ways to make an impact earlier than graduation.

## **Latina "Tina" Wilson**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** I served my country for more than 20 years in the United States Army. During my service, I acquired and nurtured important skills that will benefit me as a school board member, including leadership, problem solving, and planning for a variety of situations. My Army experiences give me the confidence to forge productive outcomes for projects large and small.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** My priorities will be teacher retention, and the resources necessary to be effective in the classroom, including aligning and assigning effective resources that enable positive outcomes for all our students, especially our FARM, ESOL, and special needs children. I will also promote and encourage academic rigor so that our kids are workforce ready.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Educational policy-makers should jointly assess skills that enable students to think critically, solve real-world problems, and be successful in the 21st century. Testing and rigorous programs of study should be aligned and relevant to college/university curricula and industrial trades standards.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** Serving in the Armed Services, including the National Guard and Reserves, is a wonderful opportunity. Trades schools are appropriate options, and "new economy" type jobs are essential considerations. Often overlooked are national programs, including the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. Entrepreneurship will be encouraged as well.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** School safety can be addressed collaboratively with law enforcement, educators, students and the community. It will require constant monitoring and assessments of the various types of

safety issues. Safety must be addressed with internal procedures, training, and awareness. It is imperative that we create a "culture of learning" so that our students equate good decisions with good outcomes.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Engagement with community organizations and businesses is a top priority. It takes a village for our schools to thrive. Students excel through experiences and exposures to various opportunities, especially in the community they are growing up in. All are part of students' development and transition into productive citizens. Strong schools are essential to strong communities.

**PRIORITIES:** Obtain adequate funding to expand enrichment programs and other learning opportunities for our schools. Ensure that our teachers receive competitive salaries. Promote and encourage positive classroom experiences for students and teachers so that a "culture of learning" is embedded and celebrated. Participate in community engagement that supports our teachers and strengthens our school district.

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## Statewide Ballot Questions

### Question 1 - Education Funding

#### **Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 357 of the 2018 Legislative Session) Requiring Commercial Gaming Revenues that are for Public Education to Supplement Spending for Education in Public Schools**

**Ballot Language:** The amendment requires the Governor to include in the annual State Budget, as supplemental funding for prekindergarten through grade 12 in public schools, the revenues from video lottery operation licenses and any other commercial gaming dedicated to public education in an amount above the level of State funding for education in public schools provided by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002 (otherwise known as the Thornton legislation) in not less than the following amounts: \$125 million in fiscal year 2020; \$250 million in fiscal year 2021; \$375 million in fiscal year 2022; and 100% of commercial gaming revenues dedicated to public education in fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter. The amendment also requires the Governor to show in the annual budget how the revenues from video lottery operation licenses and other commercial gaming are being used in a manner that is in addition to the level of State funding for public education provided by the funding formulas established by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act. The State Constitution currently authorizes video lottery operation licenses for the primary purpose of raising money for public education. (Amending Article XIX, Section 1(c)(1) and (g), and adding Section 1(f) to the Maryland Constitution)

**Current Law:** Maryland voters approved a constitutional amendment (Article XIX) in 2008 authorizing video lottery operations for the "primary purpose" of raising money for public education. The funds must be used to support programs in public schools, such as early childhood education, career and technical education, high school courses for college credits, training for public school teachers, improvement of school buildings, and capital projects at community colleges and state-supported colleges and universities.

**Proposed Change:** This amendment would require that beginning in 2020, the Governor must include specified amounts from gambling revenues in the state budget for public education. These amounts must be in addition to, and not a substitute for, any other state funding for public education. The amendment would also repeal the provision that allows gambling revenues to be used for capital projects at community colleges and state-supported colleges and universities.

**Origin of the Ballot Question:** The 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation (SB 1122) proposing an amendment to the Maryland constitution to add more specific requirements for

how gambling revenue is used in the state budget to fund public education. A bill to amend the Maryland constitution does not take effect unless it is approved by the voters at the next general election.

#### **Arguments FOR the amendment:**

- It ensures that gambling revenues are directed to public education as intended and approved by voters.
- It addresses concerns that the state was using gaming revenues to substitute for education funding that was already required by law, rather than increasing the total amount of education funding.
- It ensures that gaming revenues paid into the Education Trust Fund (also called a "lockbox") may be spent only in addition to other public education funding and cannot be used as a substitute for other funding that is already required by the Bridge to Excellence law.

#### **Arguments AGAINST the amendment:**

- The amendment would reduce the state's flexibility to use gambling revenues for other state programs.
- The amendment would eliminate the use of gaming revenues to fund capital projects at community and public colleges.

**A vote FOR the constitutional amendment means** the state constitution would be amended to specify that revenue from gambling be used to supplement other state funding for public education and cannot be used as a substitute for other required education funding.

**A vote AGAINST the amendment means** the current provision in the constitution would remain in effect, under which gambling revenue is used for public education but those funds may be in place of other state funding for schools.

## **Question 2 - Election Day Voter Registration**

### **Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 855 of the 2018 Legislative Session) Same-Day Registration and Voting at the Precinct Polling Place on Election Day**

**Ballot Language:** Authorizes the General Assembly to enact legislation to allow a qualified individual to register and vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day. The current law requires voter registration to close before Election Day. (Amending Article 1, sections 1 and 2, and adding Section 2A to the Maryland constitution.)

**Current Law:** Maryland law requires that voter registration close 21 days before an election. An exception allows people to register and vote in person during early voting at an Early Voting Center. They must provide proof of residence such as a driver's license or other specified identification. Under current law a person may not register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day and vote on the same day.

**Proposed Change:** The Maryland constitution would be amended to authorize the legislature to pass a law permitting people to register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day and to vote on the same day.

**Origin of the Ballot Question:** The 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation (HB 532) proposing an amendment to the Maryland constitution to allow people to register to vote on Election Day and to vote the same day. A bill to amend the Maryland constitution does not take effect unless it is approved by the voters at the next general election.

### **Arguments FOR the amendment:**

- Voting is a fundamental right that should not be lost due to failure to comply with a registration requirement.
- Same day registration and voting already takes place during early voting. On-the-spot validation of a voter's documentation is conducted before the voter is allowed to vote. These procedures could also be used for same day registration and voting on Election Day.
- Fourteen other states allow same day voter registration and voting on Election Day and have not reported problems.

### **Arguments AGAINST the amendment:**

- Permitting people to register and vote on Election Day could lead to voter fraud.
- Requiring people to register in advance is not burdensome, as the registration forms are readily available.

**A vote FOR the amendment means** that the constitution would be amended to allow the legislature to enact a law permitting people to register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day.

**A vote AGAINST the amendment** means that the constitution would not be amended and people would need to register to vote before Election Day.

## **Support the *Voters' Guide***

We hope that you have found the *Voters' Guide* helpful in selecting candidates for this election. We invite you to support our efforts to provide more citizens with information about candidates and the election process. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Maryland Education Fund (LWVMD-EF)

\$150  \$100  \$75  \$50  \$25  other

Send a check to: LWVMD Education Fund  
111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201  
Annapolis MD 21401

or donate online at [www.lwvmd.org](http://www.lwvmd.org).

## **Join the League!**

We invite you to be a part of making our communities FAIR, VIBRANT, and STRONG! Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our state. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 98 years of experience, local Leagues in 16 of Maryland's counties and in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

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