



League of Women Voters 2016 Primary Election Voters' Guide For St. Mary's County

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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About this Voters' Guide

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of St. Mary's County. 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 for participation in the presidential primary season. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.**

The League of Women Voters is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at www.lwv.org and www.VOTE411.org.

Party Primaries in Maryland

Party primaries in Maryland are "closed" primaries. You must be a member of a political party to participate in that party's primary, though all voters may vote for nonpartisan offices such as the Board of Education. You may change your party affiliation up until the close of voter registration on April 5 by completing a voter registration form and submitting it to your Board of Elections. You may also change your party affiliation online if you have a Maryland driver's license or identification card from the Motor Vehicle Administration. If you have not previously registered to vote, you may register during early voting (April 14-21) at an early voting center in your county and choose a party at that time. For those already registered, you may correct your address or other information during early voting, but you cannot change your party registration at that time.

In Maryland, only the Republican and Democrat candidates appear on official ballots published by the Board of Elections. This year, however, the Green Party of Maryland will be conducting a primary to select its nominees for offices at the state and local level. All voters who are listed as Green Party members with their Board of Elections may participate.

The ballots for the Green Party primary will be published on **April 2**. All candidates seeking the Green Party nomination within a voting district (congressional district, city, or city council district) will be on the ballot in that district, whether the race for an office is contested or not. Voters may also choose "None of the above," but no write-in candidates are allowed.

Green Party primary ballots will be sent to party members only upon request, which must be submitted before midnight on **Sunday, April 17**. The request should be sent to baltimoregreens@gmail.com or to Baltimore Green Party, P.O. Box 22857, Baltimore, MD 21233. Montgomery County residents may also submit their requests to mocogreens@gmail.com or Montgomery County Green Party at P.O. Box 217, Kensington, MD 20895. Ballots must be received by the Party no later than **5 PM, Saturday, April 30**. Green Party voters in Baltimore may vote in person from **9 am to 6 pm on Sunday, May 1**. For additional information, visit the Green Party website for Maryland, <http://www.mdgreens.org> or the City of Baltimore, <http://www.baltimoregp.org>, or call the Baltimore Green Party at (410) 402-5083.

President of the United States

Ground Rules for Presidential Candidates

- § All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five specific questions. Candidates qualified if they met the following criteria: 1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party's nomination for President; and, 2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website.
- § Responses were limited to 400 characters and were truncated thereafter.
- § If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not responded." is printed.

About the Office of President

Salary: \$400,000 per year

Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. Although all parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections or caucuses. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party's convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

REPUBLICANS

Jeb Bush (Withdrawn)

Party: Republican

Ben Carson

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Retired Neurosurgeon

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

Campaign Email: info@carsonhq.com

Campaign Address: Carson America

1800 Diagonal Road, Ste. 140 Alexandria, VA 22314

Questions:

Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?

A: I will address the challenges facing the U.S. with strength, resolve and most importantly my faith in God. Already, I've put forth my policy proposals for taxes, education, health care, national security and other issues

that we know the next president will face. But we know we'll face challenges we can't foresee. My experience as a surgeon gives me the strength and judgement necessary to lead.

Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?

A: This is a false dichotomy. Pursuing economic policies that promote the free market, reduce red tape and increase common sense will help grow America's businesses AND new and higher paying jobs. As president, I will drive companies to reinvest in America, creating policies that reward them for entrepreneurship and creativity, not punish them for success. When hiring increases, so will salaries.

Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.

A: We cannot defeat ISIS by tying our military's hands. I will deploy U.S. military resources to work with regional partners like Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to destroy ISIS by disrupting its funding and supplies and retaking its territory. As president, I will consult with senior leaders of the military. If they advise that ground troops are necessary, I won't hesitate to deploy them.

Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?

A: First I will fix our broken immigration system. Second, we must work with community leaders to combat radicalization. Third, we must better equip local and federal law enforcement to investigate plots. Finally, we can't let political correctness stop us from being vigilant.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.

A: I firmly believe that special interests should not dictate American elections. America was designed to serve "We the People," not "They the Powerful". Unlike most candidates, my campaign hasn't been bought by big donors. Big industries just use our broken system to keep the same D.C. insiders in office. We must break that cycle by electing new leaders and reform our campaign finance system.

Chris Christie (Withdrew)

Party: Republican

Ted Cruz

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

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

Campaign Address: Cruz for President

PO Box 25376 Houston, TX 77265

Candidate has not responded.

Carly Fiorina (Withdrew)

Party: Republican

Mike Huckabee (Withdrew)

Party: Republican

John R. Kasich

Party: Republican

Candidate does not meet the participation criteria

Website www.johnkasich.com

Rand Paul (Withdrew)

Party: Republican

Marco Rubio

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

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

Campaign Address: Marco Rubio for President

PO Box 558701 Miami, FL 33255

Candidate has not responded.

Rick Santorum (Withdrew)

Party: Republican

Donald Trump

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Businessman

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

Campaign Email: info@donaldtrump.com

Campaign Phone: (646) 736-1779

Campaign Address: Donald J. Trump for President, INC

725 Fifth Ave New York, NY 10022

Questions:

Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?

A: I think the most important issues facing this country are economic recovery, immigration and national security. I have proposed an excellent pro-growth tax policy, have taken the strongest stance on immigration reform and have addressed how we will recapitalize our military to attain the readiness necessary to achieve and protect our national interests. A strong economy must be first.

Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?

A: Good economic policy will help both companies grow and invest in America, and improve wages and living standards for all Americans. A smart trade policy, a competitive tax policy, and a national-interest immigration policy, will all boost the quality of life for Americans and make the country stronger and more prosperous.

Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.

A: The Middle East really presents three sets of issues. The Muslim Brotherhood is making great headway in the African littoral, we have the issues with Syria and Iraq and we have the challenges offered by Iran. Each of these requires different solution sets. Military power should only be used to achieve our national interests, and until such time as we have a better economy, we are limited.

Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?

A: In a Trump administration, we will keep Americans safe while safeguarding their Constitutional rights. This would mean that I would insist that all federal agencies cooperate with state and local law enforcement to

ensure that we have the broadest network possible working on collecting, and acting upon, intelligence that will suppress any attempts at domestic terrorism.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.

A: Politicians have become puppets for their donors. I am the only candidate who is self-funding. The best way for voters to rebel against the influence of money in politics is with their votes: a Trump Presidency will return this government to the people.

DEMOCRATS

Hillary Clinton

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Former U.S. Secretary of State

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

Campaign Email: info@hillaryclinton.com

Campaign Phone: (646) 854-1432

Campaign Address: Hillary for America

PO Box 5256 New York, NY 10185

Questions:

Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?

A: I have laid out four fights to face our greatest challenges: we must create an economy that raises pay and creates good jobs, ensuring those at the top pay their fair share. We have to support families by expanding access to health care and other vital services. We must maintain our leadership for global peace and security. Finally, we must stop the flow of secret money that corrupts our politics.

Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?

A: The deck is stacked against ordinary Americans. That is why I have laid out plans to raise the minimum wage and to close unfair tax loopholes that benefit companies that shift jobs overseas. I will make investments that create jobs, including in infrastructure, research, and education. I'll fight for equal pay, paid leave, and lower taxes for working Americans—asking those at the top to pay more.

Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.

A: Like President Obama, I do not believe we should again have U.S. troops in combat in the Middle East. If we have learned anything from 15 years of war, it is that we cannot substitute for local forces in missions to secure their own communities. Our strategy must be comprehensive—embedding our mission against ISIS within a broader fight against radical jihadism that is bigger than any one group.

Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?

A: We have to shut down ISIS recruitment in the U.S. and stop foreign terrorists from coming here. We must disrupt plots before they are carried out by ensuring local law enforcement works with national counterterrorism experts. We must build on our successes in securing loose nuclear materials and other WMD. And we need to empower American Muslims, who are key to the fight against radicalization.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.

A: Campaign finance reform is needed to restore a government of, by, and for the people—not just the wealthy and well-connected. On issues from climate change to equal pay, Washington won't work for us unless we address the outsized role of money in politics. As president, I will appoint Supreme Court justices who value our right to vote—and I will work to end secret, unaccountable money in politics.

Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente

Party: Democratic

Candidate does not meet the participation criteria

Website www.rocky2016.com

Bernie Sanders

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: United States Senator

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

Campaign Email: info@bernie

Campaign Phone: (802) 862-1505

Campaign Address: Bernie 2016

PO Box 905 Burlington, VT 05402

Questions:

Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?

A: I will address the most important challenges facing our country by bringing people together to reinvigorate democracy. Middle class and working families and low income people. White, Black, Hispanic, and Native American. Men and women. Straight and gay. Native born and immigrant. This is the only way to address the major economic, political, social, and environmental challenges facing our country.

Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?

A: To rebuild the middle class and reduce income and wealth inequality, we must unlock the economic potential of all Americans. As President, I will: demand large corporations pay their fair share in taxes; boost wages by increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, fight for pay equity for women, create 13 million new jobs by investing \$1 trillion to modernize our crumbling infrastructure, and more.

Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.

A: I deeply believe that the test of a great and powerful nation is not how many wars it can engage in, but how it can resolve international conflicts in a peaceful manner. We must move away from using unilateral military action, and toward diplomacy. War must always be the last resort. As Pres., I will defend this nation, its people, and America’s strategic interests, but I will do it responsibly.

Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?

A: We must root out terrorist funding networks, provide logistical support to better coordinate local and federal law enforcement, and disrupt online radicalization. While our intelligence and law enforcement agencies must have the tools they need to protect the American people, there must be legal oversight and they must go about their work in a way that does not sacrifice our basic freedoms.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.

A: There is no issue more important than reforming our broken campaign finance system, which is increasingly controlled by billionaires and special interests. We must give Congress and the states the power to regulate money in elections, and we must require full disclosure of all campaign contributions. Ultimately, we should move toward public funding of federal elections.

United States Senator

U.S. Senator

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

How Elected: In 2016, Maryland voters will elect one Senator. Voters elect two Senators from each State who serve six years. 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

Questions

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of a Senator?
2. **ECONOMY:** What economic policies would you support to assist low and middle income citizens?
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** What are the most important foreign policy issues and how would you address them?
4. **IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, would you support in immigration policy?
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** What is the most pressing environmental problem and what measures would you support to address it?
6. **INEQUALITY:** What policies would you support to address increasing concern about economic, racial, and social inequality?
7. **TAX REFORM:** What changes, if any, would you support in federal tax policy?
8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

Republican Candidates

Republicans may vote for no more than 1.

Chris Chaffee

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

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** My experience includes being a son, husband, father, grandfather, Catholic, coach, union worker, state worker, business owner, volunteer and a lifetime Maryland resident. All of these have given me the skills, compassion, understanding, and insight necessary to address the needs of the people I will represent.
2. **ECONOMY:** I would abolish the affordable care act. It is keeping employers from giving workers a forty hour work week. I would oppose the H1B Visa that is using cheap high tech labor to replace American jobs. The student visas should have a defined exit strategy upon their graduating to return home.
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** Our first step is to have a new commander and chief who would enforce a strong foreign policy. We need to stand united and defend our allies. All foreign policies must have what is best for America as the priority. We must defeat ISIS.
4. **IMMIGRATION:** We have immigration laws in place that are not being enforced. We must identify and verify who is entering our country with a competent screening process. We must control our borders. If you are not here legally you are breaking the law.
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** I am a lifetime Maryland resident and have seen the Chesapeake Bay go from being polluted to on its way to recovery. We need common sense regulations to protect our resources. This needs to be done by the states not the EPA in Washington. Let the free market determine the best energy sources. Stop allowing Washington to pick winners and losers.
6. **INEQUALITY:** We need to strengthen family values, support education, treating each other as equals and with respect. There is only one race; the human race.
7. **TAX REFORM:** I would simplify the tax plan and support a 10% flat tax across the board. I would keep the mortgage deduction, increase the education deduction, reduce the size of the IRS and abolish the affordable care act.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: My other priorities are term limits for congress and senate; stop the special interest group's money from going to politicians. Ensure our President, congress and senate are following the constitution and stop using executive orders.

Sean P. Connor

Campaign Website: <http://www.seanconnor.us>

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I meet all the qualifications as provided for by the US Constitution. Maryland has been my residence for all my life, I have always lived and worked in Maryland, and I am raising my family in Maryland. I have never run for office but I am tired of the same people being recycled and elected. I work in IT, customer service and patience have been honed to consider all sides of an issue.

2. ECONOMY: It is criminal the amount of debt that is currently being accumulated and passed on to the next 2, possibly 3 generations. I will be part of making the Executive and Legislative branches accountable to a balanced budget, wise spending bills Marylanders are forced to live within their means, why shouldn't the Federal Government? Smarter spending and defeating the fraud.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: Terrorism and Trade As a Veteran, Citizen, Father, Husband, Brother, Son, Uncle, Neighbor and Friend, I support the strongest national defense achievable. I do not support any military action without clearly defined goals, and no intent for decisive victory. If we are not going in to win, why are we there in the first place? Trade agreements need to be more equitable to bring back US businesses.

4. IMMIGRATION: I support legal Immigration, and I support having better control of our borders. First, we address border security, then those here illegally. We bring them out of hiding, assist and embrace those who want to be Americans while weeding out those nefarious individuals that are destructive and harmful to Maryland and America.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Energy and the battle of what is good or not good. It is everyone's responsibility to always improve our environment. We don't always get it right, but we can always clean it up and do better. It starts with personal responsibility and corporate responsibility, and ends with constantly updating acceptable lawfully passed legislation and regulations. It is a tough balance.

6. INEQUALITY: Redistribution of Politicians, and a campaign of Individual Personal Responsibility. Much of this is due to career politicians, and their coziness with special interests. Much is due to people not being thoughtful, respectful, and considerate in everyday interactions. Honest pay for honest work, treat people as you would be treated, don't worry about the "Jones's".

7. TAX REFORM: Remove Federal Income Tax, and reduce the IRS and Treasury Department. If that is not achievable, I would support either a flat, fair, or sales tax Stay At Home Parenting Tax credit. Utility Bills and car payments would be tax deductible just like a mortgage

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: Promote Volunteerism in current existing non profit organisations Student Debt and the exaggerated cost of Education Engage businesses to have apprenticeships for those not suited to a Liberal Arts Education. Repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and de-couple Healthcare from businesses, make it open and competitive across all the States. Strengthen our Military...it has been weakened.

Richard J. Douglas

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I would bring five years of prior U.S. Senate experience to the post. I also have armed forces, diplomatic, intelligence, and law enforcement experience which no other candidate in the race can match. I will use my command of Senate rules, my national security and business experience, and my real-world seasoning to give Maryland something in the U.S. Senate it lacks today: a voice.

2. ECONOMY: My primary objective as a U.S. Senator will be to unshackle the U.S. economy. There is no higher national security priority. My approach will be to seek to purge the U.S. Code of statutory obstacles to U.S. success, and revise basic statutory authorities which enable regulatory bloat. To accomplish this, I will work with Annapolis and across the aisle wherever possible.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: The most important foreign policy threat to the United States in 2016 is a U.S. Congress which will tolerate an Iranian nuclear program. Such a Congress will tolerate anything, including the destruction of American alliances, the American workforce and American liberties. I am running for the U.S. Senate to put a stop to it, and I will begin on the day after my general election victory.

4. IMMIGRATION: Above all, Congress must restore U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident workers to first place on our nation's priority list. I served in Juarez, Mexico, in the Foreign Service. I have more immigration experience than anyone in Congress or the Maryland race. U.S. workers must recapture their rightful place at the top of Congress's priority list. Today they aren't on the list at all.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Maryland's most pressing environmental problem is ineffectiveness of its U.S. congressional delegation. The Bay and the people are hurt by such passivity, as unfinished projects like storm water repairs in Baltimore, the Conowingo Dam cleanout, and Chesapeake/Delaware Canal dredging languish. Meanwhile, EPA runs roughshod over farmers as Maryland's congressional delegation slumbers. No more.

6. INEQUALITY: The most effective antidote to economic, racial, and social inequality is upward mobility for all Marylanders and the hope of a dignified job, a home, and a future. The Maryland General Assembly could have taken a step toward that goal at the beginning of its 2016 session, but instead chose marijuana. Not a word was heard about this from Maryland's Capitol Hill delegation. That's unacceptable.

7. TAX REFORM: Lower. Easier. More equitable. Now.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: My highest priority in the U.S. Senate will be to bring economic prosperity to Maryland. Our state has the human capital and the geographic position to accomplish this. But our U.S. congressional delegation lacks the will. I will change that. People losing homes on the courthouse steps in Upper Marlboro aren't thinking about ISIS or Sergey Magnitsky. They need a U.S. Senator who gets that.

John R. Graziani

No responses received by deadline.

Greg Holmes

No responses received by deadline.

Joseph David Hooe

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: As a business owner, Johns Hopkins graduate, past volunteer firefighter, political activist, I have advised various organizations on how to maximize transportation efficiency. I have fought for the rights of small businesses. I took on Goodyear over their use of my business's name and phone number, and I won. I've also served as a Political Liaison-Aid for the Finnish Foreign committee delegation.

2. ECONOMY: I believe that we need more apprenticeship programs that allow businesses to hire employees at lower wages and develop them into skilled workers worthy of higher market wages after a specific period of time. Employer-sponsored apprentices would gain access to valuable on-the-job training, "earn while they learn" and avoid costly vocational training schools.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: ISIS and Iran are the most important foreign policy issues. There are four players involved in the Syrian crisis: The United States, Russia, Arab Sunni governments, including Syria, and the

Shiite majority governments of Iraq and Iran, who all have a different agenda and ultimate vision of the future for the Middle East region. We need to stop the flow of money to terrorists and protect ourselves.

4. IMMIGRATION: I have developed an immigration reform plan that will raise billions of dollars annually, resources that can be used to pay down the debt, make infrastructure improvements and improve border security. I'm proposing an immigrant pay-to-work program, whereby all 11 million illegal immigrant workers in the U.S. would be required to purchase an annual temporary right to work for \$1000.00.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Protecting our national resources must become a top priority. I also believe that we should reevaluate our focus on the Middle East and instead prioritize securing our borders and protecting our allies. We should also move toward supporting domestic alternative energy programs and by extension supporting our farmers, who are vital to achieving the goal of American energy independence in the future

6. INEQUALITY: In America, truly anyone can succeed. We need senators who can build partnerships with the business community in order to create jobs, which will help end the culture of violence that is destroying the sense of community needed to provide the best opportunities for the people who need them the most, especially our young people who are currently simply trying to survive everyday life.

7. TAX REFORM: What government can do to help this process is to stop raising taxes on individuals and instead find ways to reward businesses to provide as many incentives as possible to succeed. We need to build partnerships with the business community to put as many people to work as possible, and we need to find ways to reward businesses for creating and implementing fair compensation policies.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: Gerrymandering is, in my opinion, one of the most offensive practices in politics and all voters should be incensed at the mere mention of the word. We need a redistricting process that places communities in common sense, fair and symmetric boundaries so that no person, public servant or community leader is unfairly deprived of the opportunity to help make a difference.

Chrys Kefalas

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: As a business leader and entrepreneur with a long history of success, I know what it takes to build opportunity, create jobs, and give a voice to our middle class. As a high-ranking official with the U.S. Justice Department and as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., I've led on politically-charged issues, such as criminal justice reform, to forge consensus and get results.

2. ECONOMY: I will fight to restore manufacturing in Maryland--with lower taxes, sane regulations, and America-first trade. Too much of Maryland has been left behind by our flat-lining economy. Since 1990, we've lost 100,000 manufacturing jobs. Like my friend and former colleague, Gov. Larry Hogan, I can fix this because I've helped create jobs in the private sector.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: ISIS, radical Islamist terrorism, nuclear states, and cyber-attacks are America's greatest threats. I will support international coalitions to defeat ISIS and radical Islamist terrorism; ensure that immigrants are screened and vetted so we know who is coming into our country; keep our military and intelligence community strong while protecting civil liberties; and prioritize cyber-security.

4. IMMIGRATION: As your Senator, I will: reform the broken system and secure our borders--to reaffirm legalized immigration; enforce immigration laws in the workplace; implement effective visa tracking systems; enhance the H-2B visa program; and end sanctuary cities.

5. ENVIRONMENT: For Maryland, we need to do better in protecting the Bay. As your Senator, I will ensure that we are not placing barriers on the innovations that will ultimately solve our challenges; convene a monthly task force meeting of industry, agriculture, fishing, environmental leaders to hear their concerns and proposals; and propose a 5-year comprehensive plan to improve the health of the Bay.

6. INEQUALITY: Improving education and expanding economic opportunity will reduce inequality in the Maryland and in the United States. That's why I will lead in Washington to create jobs, renew manufacturing in Maryland, and better our schools. I trust the people of Maryland to get our education system right.

7. TAX REFORM: The 74,000 pages of the tax code are unreadable. Only those who can afford legal teams can discover the myriad of loopholes and write-offs, meaning we have a virtual pay-to-play system that rigs the system against working families. As your Senator, I will fight to lower taxes and overhaul the tax code to simplify personal income and business taxes.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: People in our state can't see the American Dream because they're stuck in a nightmare. That's why criminal justice reform is close to my heart. I had the honor of leading on this issue with Governor Ehrlich--long before it was politically popular to do--and with our nation's last Democratic Attorney General. As your Senator, I will work aggressively to end the epidemic of drugs.

Mark McNicholas

Campaign Website: <http://www.mark4md.com/>

1. QUALIFICATIONS: At some point being a leader may have meant you were the one with the loudest voice or biggest muscle, but today being a leader means building the best relationships. I have built relationships in the business world and look forward to building relationships in Washington to make Maryland a better place to live, work and do business!

2. ECONOMY: I would reduce governmental regulations and taxes. When these are introduced to a free market economy it comes with a cost. The increase is passed on to the consumer in the price of the product or service. In the end the more regulations the government adds the more it increases prices. Increased prices have a much greater effect on the lower and middle class than it does on the wealthy.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: The most important foreign policy issue facing our country is our national defense. We have to make sure we are guarded against any attacks on our country. This means increasing our defense spending to better secure our borders, ports and coastlines. Having troops stationed abroad is necessary to our safety at home. Being an isolationist is not a successful foreign policy.

4. IMMIGRATION: It certainly does not sit well with me that in many American businesses we have citizens working and paying income taxes while someone doing the same job is not paying income taxes. The best solution is a gradual approach with the first step being to stop the influx of undocumented workers with a wall. We need to document the undocumented workers already in our country and make them tax payers.

5. ENVIRONMENT: The US should be leading the efforts to research the impacts of climate change and deforestation and we should be recruiting partners in these efforts. These are global issues and they require global solutions. One thing that we can do on a national level is to clarify the labeling of our food. We need to take a close look at the FDA's practices and our use of fertilizers and pesticides.

6. INEQUALITY: Being in the mortgage industry for 14 years I have seen first-hand the impact federal regulation has had on the housing industry. The effects of FHA "redlining" can still be found today in Maryland's housing market. Examples like these are why I believe the Federal Government is rarely the best institution to address social inequalities. Student loans are an instance where we can make changes.

7. TAX REFORM: I believe the system we have today needs to be simplified but we should maintain a progressive tax at its core. I have no interest in further taxing the middle class with a head tax or a flat tax. The consumption taxes we have in place now are already regressive so the last thing we need to do is implement a program that shifts more of the tax burden onto middle class working Americans.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: The citizens of MD care about are the people of Flint, MI. People living in the US without clean drinking water is beyond upsetting. Maryland has some aging infrastructure currently in a state of disrepair. Last year 28 bridges were called "structurally deficient" and I think that is unacceptable. Today it is MI, tomorrow it could be MD. Building relationships will help secure the funds needed.

Lynn Richardson

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: My experience as a reasonable, considerate business owner makes a strong argument for a regular citizen to become senator. Each day, it is my job to define the goals of my client, the scope of the problem and to formulate a practical solution based on needs, budget and timeframe. Our long term representatives easily forget that they are making decisions that wholly affect other people's lives.

2. ECONOMY: Federal government has to get out of the way of small & emerging businesses that will directly create job opportunities that, in turn, create more income. I support vast change in the stifling entitlement programs that need to encourage and SUPPORT individuals by providing a pathway out of dependency and into independent, successful jobs that can support them.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: We must repair our relationships with strong allies, like Israel, who will be

instrumental in fighting our war with Islamic terrorists. We must also stand on the tails of countries that laugh in the face of our policies and treaties-North Korea and Iran, for examples-and be prepared to make them comply, for our safety and the safety of the world.

4. IMMIGRATION: Before we can deal or ultimately manage the millions of illegal immigrants, we must be able to contain and control our own borders. Once that step is taken, we can then assess what to do next. It is quite complicated with families involved, but we can most certainly begin to weed out and deport those who break even more of our laws right away. It should not take years to become a citizen here.

5. ENVIRONMENT: In Maryland, the health of the bay is probably the most critical issue. Our biggest problem is what comes to us from neighboring states. We can regulate our farmers, our urban run-off, trash, and septic systems, but if the junk coming out of PA keeps polluting the bay, all of our efforts won't make any difference.

6. INEQUALITY: Economic disparity comes from a serious lack of opportunity available for several regions of our state. Some people think the government must provide all their answers, needs and wants. It is not the job of the federal government to do this. Each jurisdiction must define and solve matters as they pertain to their own area, because they are better equipped to know what they need.

7. TAX REFORM: While proposed in many ways over the past 20 years (ineffectively,) why would it be so hard to eliminate federal income tax, for the currently shrinking workforce, and just have a 10% national sales tax on all consumer goods? The IRS workers become sales tax collectors and 20 million underground workers and criminals are suddenly contributing to the income. They all eat food.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: Health care that makes sense is a very important to solve. National security is vital, but it must be done without crushing our constitutional rights. It is critical. to our survival as a strong nation, that our representatives once again begin to build relationships and consensus. One can't go there to just fight the other guys. It's been too long since important matters are actually solved.

Anthony Seda

No responses received by deadline.

Richard Shawver

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I have 30 years in the military, 8 years in the US Marine's, 22 years in the US Air Force. I worked at Hecht Co for 38 years as project manager and being in charge of the visual carpenter shop. I studied constitutional law at SAP and at the Institute on the Constitution. Also I ran for US Senate in 2010 against Senator Mikulski.

2. ECONOMY: Our economy is so far out of control it will take time to straighten out. We have more American's out of work with more illegals working that do not belong in our country. We need to deport them and give our citizens those jobs and help improve out economy, low and middle income citizens.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: Our foreign policy should be working with the League of Nations. Sanctions and not trading with the nation or nations will some time have them trying to work with others nations to help to keep their economy working.

4. IMMIGRATION: The immigration policy has to stop immediately. To many people are allowed into this county and are not kept track of. Immigrants are to enter out country by being under a sponsor or a having a job so they will not be a burden on the taxpayer. All illegals are to be deported.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Our environment is a serious matter. Our country has worked hard on this problem to water and air pollution. We need to work with nations around the world, but many nations have no about this problem. Our big problem is our country itself. Our water lever is going down and we are drilling deeper to find it, using it faster then we can replace it. All states need to work together.

6. INEQUALITY: Increasing concern about inequality, I believe is coming from a few who preach hate and they get all the news coverage. I believe people working together can make things peaceful. We need to work together with our state officials, county officials, our neighborhood leaders and church officials to make things better.

7. TAX REFORM: Let us have the government and IRS collect the taxes that are owed from the people that owe them. It is not always owed by the American citizens. The Constitution said the American citizen does not

owe a direct tax.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: To make certain we have clean water, to return back to a gold and silver standard with coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins, and fix the standard of weights and measures.

Kathy Szeliga

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

No responses received by deadline.

Dave Wallace

Campaign Website: <http://www.davewallace.us>

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** As a successful businessman, I brought prosperity to my employees and quality products to my customers, which also allowed me to give back to our community and nation. I work closely with Congress and national policy makers, supporting effective economic and foreign policy answers to reverse the devastation here and abroad from Obama's policies. You can trust I will fight the establishment for you
- 2. ECONOMY:** The best way to help the poor is with a paycheck and the reward of having a job--not a welfare check and the accompanying loss of self respect. The best way to bring jobs to everyone is sound economic reforms which will bring back to life our cities and economy. Tax cuts and deregulation will un-strangle business so they can create new jobs.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** President Ronald Reagan brought peace to a troubled world, and ended the bloody Soviet empire. Not by being nice and disarming our country, but by rebuilding our defense. 'Peace through strength' works. Obama's weakness brought terrible civil wars and dictatorships to the Middle East, while encouraging tyrannies like China, Russia, Iran and North Korea to take advantage of our weakness.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** As your Senator, I will introduce legislation to build the full 2,000 mile border fence and end 'magnet' benefits that encourage those who do not want to work. Just as you have a door, a lock and walls on your house or business, and let in only those you trust, we must protect our borders in this era of terrorism and letting foreigners displace American workers and drive down wages.
- 5. ENVIRONMENT:** The cleanest nations in the world are the most free. China, Russia and other Socialist 'paradises' are among the most polluted places on earth. The United States invented environmental protection, and nobody protects their own environment better than private owners. The joke in Bernie Sanders' beloved Soviet Union was "when everyone owns it, nobody owns it." Ownership equals care.
- 6. INEQUALITY:** Inequality is the result of anti-competitive tax and regulatory laws. Cutting taxes and regulations will allow businesses to hire and prosper, and that is the ticket to restoring the middle class. There is little that can't be cured with a 5% growth rate. The Obama-Bernie Sanders-Chris Van Hollen-Donna Edwards 'tax-spend-and-food stamp' agenda leads straight to national bankruptcy and poverty.
- 7. TAX REFORM:** Our economy is terribly burdened by having the highest corporate taxes in the developed world, making any other country more attractive in this global economy. I will lead legislative efforts to cut this tax burden as well as encourage the repatriation of foreign income. That will help bring jobs back to Maryland from China, and make American-made products cheaper.
- 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** You can trust that on the first day, I will introduce legislation to completely repeal Obamacare, and replace it with sound conservative market-based reforms so you CAN keep your policy and your own doctor—and don't have to be afraid Obamacare death panels will deny care for your loved ones. That's the American way.

Garry Thomas Yarrington

1. QUALIFICATIONS: No response received by deadline.

2. ECONOMY: No response received by deadline.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: war, we don't need to get in any wars, only if they are declared and support by our congress and all the people of the u.s.a. and supported by the united nations . we need to stop drugs being inport to the united states period. we must keep our bubget reasonable.

4. IMMIGRATION: we must stop all the law breakers that comein to ouyr country that are not legal period.

how can we let than break our laws. period

5. ENVIRONMENT: we need to stop all green house warning . period we are during a good job. but we need to do a little better.

6. INEQUALITY: No response received by deadline.

7. TAX REFORM: No response received by deadline.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: we need to have a better mental health issue and programs to stop the killing of our own people. get hold of the se isswues and deal with same . .more jobs here in this country and make sure we require that we make other countrys spend as much from us as we buy from than period. we can 't do the wrlds fighting for than they must do there fair share of fighting, period. don't let our wo

Democratic Candidates

Democrats may vote for no more than 1.

Freddie Donald Jr. Dickson

Campaign Website: <http://dickson4ussenate.com>

1. QUALIFICATIONS: As a outside the beltway business and advisor in Politics for 30 years.My advice has been helping politicians in all parties.This seat has been locked d up for decades!! We need a non mainstream Senator with real life experience, with the education,business background. Working my Mechanical, stone,Kitchen and bath businesses since 1968 I have worked with the poor and billionaires same RESPECT !!

2. ECONOMY: I have a plan for after a 40 hour work week,the employee recieves Time and a half tax free for employee and employer including state,Federal,local tax This will encourage extra work over 40 to compete with illegal and under the table competition Federal intern working system for high school and college

3. FOREIGN POLICY: Foreign Aid needs to be reduced on a country to country evaluation!! The technology we have today can be a global supply of need and excess of commodities. Export taxes and import taxes need to be a sliding rule

4. IMMIGRATION: We need immigration/as a grandson of a immigrant my family came to America the hard and correct way it makes you appreciate this country and its love for immigrants!! Legislation for illegals that have survived more than 5 years and own houses, cars,businesses need a fast track to LEGAL

5. ENVIRONMENT: We need a reform protection bill for private Wells and our public water systems!! We need new communities under construction to have 2/4" sewer lines one for water and the other for waste this waste can be held in a storage tank and the methane can be used to generate electricity and pumped back as gas heat and fuel

6. INEQUALITY: This starts in the MIND of our children !! Our educational systems and the homes of our kids dictate the actions of our children who then become employees!! We need a tax break for businesses that hire minorities both black corperations Asian and Caucasian

7. TAX REFORM: I think we need to down size The IRS not increase stop loop holes and give tax credits to coaching staff of all sports for fuel/equipment/expenses OUR KIDS NEED THIS TIME AWAY FROM SOCIAL MEDIA GAMES TO GET TEAMWORK AND UNITY NOT TAUGHT IN SCHOOL

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: I am deeply Concerned with the homeless/drug inflicted/And mental illness!! I want to bring federally funded sports facilities to the city more!! Last but foremost the fight of cancer to treat us and our families more humanly then currently DONATE TO CANCER NOT MY OR ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN Nano Cellular - Technology warefare is more important than Nukes !! NANOTECHNOLOGY IS THE FINAL FRONTIER!!

Donna F. Edwards

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: My experience passing legislation that positively impacts the lives of Maryland's hardworking middle class families is what best prepares me to represent our state in the U.S. Senate. In the House, I've authored legislation that now provides meals to children in need, fines big healthcare companies when they take advantage of consumers, and supports 10,000 Maryland jobs at NASA Goddard.

2. ECONOMY: To start, we should raise the minimum wage, ensure equal pay for equal work, make childcare

and college more affordable, and make significant investments in STEM education. I've led the fight on these issues in the House, and will do so in the Senate. We should invest in job training and infrastructure to ensure that children graduate high school or college prepared for a job in today's economy.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: The United States must engage with multilateral institutions to bring stability to troubled regions of the world, including the fight to combat the plague of international terrorism. We must also focus on implementing the Iran deal, establishing a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine, and bolstering our allies and ideals in Asia to combat a rising China and unpredictable North Korea.

4. IMMIGRATION: The Congress must take the lead on passing comprehensive immigration reform. We must place a premium on policies that prioritize families, safety, and our economy, and that includes a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. I am an original co-sponsor of this incredibly important legislation in the House, and was proud to join the fight for the passage of the Maryland DREAM Act.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Maryland is the third most vulnerable state to rising sea levels. I led the fight for critical environmental programs: the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program and the Harbor Trust Maintenance Fund. I wrote the law to institute green infrastructure techniques for water systems, and have fought for transportation and public transit investments to help reduce emissions and create jobs.

6. INEQUALITY: The fight to alleviate economic inequality starts by investing in our nation's urban core. That means targeted investments for neighborhoods in need by census tract in infrastructure, education, and wraparound services necessary to help working families get ahead. Federal disinvestment in our nation's urban core is tantamount to Congress ignoring the problems that beset cities like Baltimore.

7. TAX REFORM: We must make affordable childcare available for families. I authored H.R. 1492, the Child CARE Act, to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and ensure more families benefit. We need to use the tax code to incentivize job creation tax credits such as the Research and Development tax credits linked to domestic manufacturing, prioritized towards small and medium businesses and innovators.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: We must stand up to the NRA once and for all and pass commonsense gun legislation. That means passing real gun laws that will actually prevent gun violence in our country, including banning high capacity magazines, military style assault weapons, and getting guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. Washington politicians on both sides of the aisle need to end the empty talk, and take action.

Ralph Jaffe

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Political science teacher. In Baltimore County, initiated new teaching strategy, STUDENT ACTIVISM IN THE CLASSROOM. Bill born in my classroom, signed into law by Present Nixon. Made national news, documented in Reader's Digest. This strategy is the foundation for governing the people.

2. ECONOMY: Get the federal, state, and local government off the backs of people in the business world - be they small or large companies. Let the private sector take its course.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: Topic is too complicated to answer in small amount of space. Please call me and I'll be glad to discuss it with you in detail.

4. IMMIGRATION: Topic is too complicated to answer in small amount of space. Please call me and I'll be glad to discuss it with you in detail.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Topic is too complicated to answer in small amount of space. Please call me and I'll be glad to discuss it with you in detail.

6. INEQUALITY: Topic is too complicated to answer in small amount of space. Please call me and I'll be glad to discuss it with you in detail.

7. TAX REFORM: In favor of a flat tax system. Against any tax increases, period. I will try to abolish the IRS.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: I'm a teacher, not a politician. Leading the Jaffe Movement whose mission is getting money out of politics and career politicians out of business. They're messing up our country. We need a new standard of behavior for politicians. They need to focus on doing what's right for the people rather than themselves. Check out my website, [fedupwithcrookedpolitics.com](http://www.fedupwithcrookedpolitics.com)

Theresa C. Scaldaferrri

Campaign Website: <http://> in the process of creating

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** For over 45 years while working for the government, I lived under laws and budgets Congress legislated. That makes me well qualified to proficiently handle the duties of a Senator. With all the education and experience each Senator has had, they still are unable to clear up these inadequacies.
- 2. ECONOMY:** Fair wages or, for a better word, living wages, affordable housing and a real universal health care act will help a great deal to lighten the burdens of the lower and middle class citizens.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** The Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa, Ukraine, Russia, China, and Korea are matters most important to which the U.S. must deal. Mending fences with Israel and Saudi Arabia and dealing with the ISIS crises are equally important.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** The U.S. loses over \$18,250,000,000 in various taxes a year due to 15+ million illegal immigrants in this country. This is a growing problem. An amnesty program to start documenting these people into the fabric of the U.S. going back to the time they came here is my proposal.
- 5. ENVIRONMENT:** Global warming happens twice as fast in the Arctic as anywhere else in the world. In order to combat this, a major environmental impact study is needed to examine a plan to redirect flooding waters across the U.S. to those extremely dry areas preventing the huge forest fires as in the past.
- 6. INEQUALITY:** I have mixed relatives within my extended family I am reminded that no one side is more innocent or essential than the other. I believe people are aware of this in their hearts. We need a strategy of sensitivity to start, since sensitivity with each other is all we have.
- 7. TAX REFORM:** IRS is the only organization that collects money to keep the government working. Each tax report is different. People do not want to invest time in preparing these forms. Turbo Tax and other applications make it easier to fill out these forms. More information is needed to answer the deductions available.
- 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** Other priorities are security, jobs, health, safety, women's issues, education and peace. Informing constituents of all current legislation being considered for passage, and initiating a system for constituents to be able to reply back either positively or negatively are the other priorities from this U.S. Senator's office.

Charles U. Smith

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I served the state of Maryland for thirty five years / advisor to four Governors as Adjutant General Maryland National Guard /aide to Warfield ,Hodges .fretted , before ordered back to active duty regular army. Register with the state medical board.
- 2. ECONOMY:** a fair wage above minimum for every one .
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** it sure will not be like they are addressing foreign now.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** that every one should be here legally
- 5. ENVIRONMENT:** the Chesapeake bay .
- 6. INEQUALITY:** enforce the laws fairly in the present not like they did in the past.
- 7. TAX REFORM:** tax every one fairly .
- 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** most important is veterans rights to me .

Violet Staley

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Military Spouse with over forty (40) years of volunteerism and advocacy for children and Military families, I have learned to work with people from all backgrounds and ages. I have volunteered with local government from California to Maryland and South Carolina, continuing my education while working as a Child Development Specialist. I know what works to build strong communities.
- 2. ECONOMY:** I support job creation with a "living wage" as opposed to a minimum wage and equal pay for women for equal work. I support affordable, quality early childhood development. I advocate for clean, safe public schools with good teachers who deserve a pay increase, and "state of the art" books and technology. I advocate for job training & internships to begin in 12th grade. I support paid family leave
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** To address the recruitment of Americans by terrorists over the internet, we need strong, secure guidelines that will prohibit access, as a matter of Homeland Security. Military leaders should work with

internet providers to establish parameters when free speech threatens U.S. citizens. Accountability is needed and enforcement critical. Trade policies should protect American workers jobs and rights

4. IMMIGRATION: I support a legal path to citizenship by lessening the time and cost involved. English classes should be taught, as well as job training and support services provided to families. After the immigrant has a job, he or she can pay taxes and support their families. Many have opened up their own businesses and furthered their education.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Our standards and regulations on clean air emissions should be enforced. Efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay continued and reviews on the results of "fracking" extended. Applicable divisions of county government should make keeping drains open a priority as well as encouraging neighborhood involvement in the anti-litter campaigns. Clean, attractive neighborhoods should be rewarded.

6. INEQUALITY: Restrengthening the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court recently weakened is a priority. Once it addresses all concerns, a provision should be included that it doesn't have to be ratified again; it should be law. School staff should be reflective of the communities in which they serve, this should also apply to the Police departments and managers in the restaurants and stores.

7. TAX REFORM: Tax breaks should not be given to companies who send their jobs and put their money in banks outside of the U.S. The middle class should get more tax breaks, because they spend more money. The millionaires and billionaires should pay their fair share. An equitable policy will help the lower class move up, and the middle class have more cash to spend in the upper class.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: Our Veterans should be respected and appreciated for the sacrifices they have made for our country. They should receive the highest level of service for their needs, in a timely manner. The VA should hire more Veterans and Veterans should receive more educational credit towards a degree for the job skills they've acquired. Logistics, computer technology, and personnel management are a few.

Blaine Taylor

Campaign Website: <http://none>

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Congressional press secretary on Capitol Hill, 1991-92; successful winning campaign press secretary for MD House of Delegates, 1974; MD State Senate 1978; Baltimore County Executive, 1990; and MD Presidential Primary 1992. In private sector, 1968-92, worked in banking, public relations, advertising, retail sales, newspapers and magazines statewide and nationally. At 12, worked in saw sharpening.

2. ECONOMY: I would introduce the Credit Card Forgiveness Act of 2017 as its main sponsor whereby debtors would be given a one-time-only clean slate, never to charge again. The lenders would receive tax credits to offset said losses. A Balanced Federal Budget as we had on Jan. 20, 2001, pay off the National Debt, and no more foreign wars without Congressional declaration; Senior Citizen Rent Ceiling Act '17

3. FOREIGN POLICY: End all foreign aid, repeal current nuclear treaty with Iran, prepare to destroy ISIS/ISIL with all military means, with allies if possible, but without if necessary. Seal off our border with Mexico by all means necessary. Adopt a firmer stance with Red China in the Pacific than we have now. Enact all possible financial sanctions to prevent further Russian aggression. End world pollution.

4. IMMIGRATION: Deport all 14 million illegal aliens now. Either the US is a Sovereign State or it is not. Right now, it is not. History shows that any state that doesn't control its own frontiers will fall, and thus, so will we. There is still time to correct our current disastrous non-policies.

5. ENVIRONMENT: That is to work to make China and India do MORE. Failing that, nothing we do here in the US will matter one iota. One thing that we might do jointly with the People's Republic of China is to produce pollution-free cars, trucks, buses, aircraft, and both maritime/naval vessels. It's far better than World War 3! Tax all domestic offenders until they quit or go out of business.

6. INEQUALITY: Equal pay for equal work all across-the-board. As with Parade magazine each year, we can Federally mandate that ALL salaries of everyone be published as both the best and quickest way to end this disparity for good. I'll introduce the National Trade School Bill of 2017. To end student debt, we need first to know its source, by auditing all collegiate institutions re: spending. Start with TU.

7. TAX REFORM: Abolish the Federal Income Tax of 1912 in 2017, and replace it with National Sales Taxes on income spent to fund the Federal Government; convince States to do likewise to fund their governments. As it is now, personal income is taxed TWICE: first in full, and second when it is spent. That is inherently unfair by

its very nature. It should be taxed as spent, not as earned en toto.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: We find ourselves like a trio of runaway trains, all running simultaneously down parallel tracks toward the same brick wall upon which all three will collide and be destroyed: Warfare State, Welfare State, and Police State. History shows that Republics fall in all three, resulting in dictatorships and world wars. That is the direction we are embarked upon now, and have been since 1945. Reversal!

Ed Tinus

Campaign Website: <http://united-us.org>

1. QUALIFICATIONS: In looking for the ideal resume, You may ignore the ideal candidate. The frame work of this country is designed to allow the farmer to come out of the field and hold any office. A candidate would have to be a genius if they were not to follow the frame work our fore fathers established. The voters will govern my leadership. I have served for the public good all my adult life and will continue.

2. ECONOMY: First and foremost ask the voters if my intentions are for the public good. Subsidize minimum wage to earn \$15.00 per hour. Return funds to social security Collect tariffs on all imports and exports of goods to support our federal government. Eliminate the temporary income tax. Create jobs through infrastructure maintenance, restore the Chesapeake bay. Enact term limits on property tax.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: First and foremost I would ask the voters what is their most important foreign policy issues. As their representative I would glean the will of the voters. Through transparency inform them as to what the most uniform way is to address those concerns. Any candidate that can address foreign policy issues through their opinion is a National Security risk and should not hold office.

4. IMMIGRATION: First and foremost I would ask the voters what changes, if any, they would support in immigration policy. I would disclose to the voters all the issues in place. Such issues as the large fee's collected by the fed to become a citizen, The ability to speak and read English, and listen to what other immigration policy concerns the voters may want me to address. Communicating through the internet .

5. ENVIRONMENT: Locally restoring the Chesapeake Bay. If it would be the will of the voters, I would reorganize all efforts for a healthy bay. My plan is a sound approach that actually will restore Maryland's National Treasure. I would ask the voters what are their most pressing environmental concerns? I then would seek council from the voters . Through transparency design a sensible plan .

6. INEQUALITY: I would only address the concerns of policies that do not conflict with the power that the Constitution grants to the federal government. I would act as a overseer to the State to insure uniform assist to all the citizens needs. I would continually search for the will of the voters to protect them from any legislature that does not give uniform concession to the voters. **7. TAX REFORM:** Repel the free trade act. Eliminate the federal income tax, and collect a tariff on all imports and exports of goods. This is the Constitutions method for the federal government to support its needs.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: To open a line of communication to the voters that has never been seen before, modernize the voting process ,making voting safe and secure from your own home, protect the Right that all voters can vote in every election even primaries, protecting restoring social security, investing in transportation, creating jobs, strengthening small business, stop terrorism through educating women to have value

Chris Van Hollen

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Like Senator Barbara Mikulski, I believe in delivering results. In Congress and the General Assembly, I've worked together with grassroots activists and community leaders to make a positive difference. I know when to stand and fight for what we believe in, and when to find common ground to achieve results for Marylanders. I've been endorsed by Maryland groups like SEIU, MD Firefighters, and UAW.

2. ECONOMY: I have a plan that cracks down on Wall Street's risky financial dealings and boosts paychecks of working Americans with a Paycheck Bonus Tax Credit, with a savers bonus to help families prepare for retirement. We must also strengthen the safety net, raise the minimum wage, improve access to affordable childcare, provide earned paid sick leave and family leave, and ensure equal pay for equal work.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: I opposed the Iraq War from the start and believe we must work with and support our allies in the Middle East to defeat ISIL. I oppose putting troops on the ground there and risking Iraq 2.0. We

need to support our soldiers and returning veterans by providing healthcare, education, and job opportunities, and ending veteran homelessness.

4. IMMIGRATION: I support comprehensive immigration reform to strengthen border security, streamline our visa system, and create an earned path to citizenship to bring the undocumented out of the shadows. This strategy will boost job growth, reduce our deficits, increase the Social Security Trust Fund, and strengthen our national security. I'm pleased to be endorsed by CASA de Maryland.

5. ENVIRONMENT: Every community must be safe from toxic pollutants and chemicals like lead. The Sierra Club endorsed me because I fight for environmental justice and have a plan to address climate change by cutting carbon pollution while also putting money back in the pockets of middle class families. I've fought to stop oil drilling in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and for federal support for clean-up efforts.

6. INEQUALITY: Our country must meet its promise of equal opportunity and justice for all, but we're not there yet. Our system is rigged for the wealthy and privileged. I want to stop CEOs from writing off big bonuses if they don't give employees raises. We have to open the doors of opportunity to all - with early education, debt-free college, and job training. We must end unjust mass incarceration.

7. TAX REFORM: Our tax code is rigged for those who make money off of money instead of working Americans. My plan would eliminate tax breaks that reward corporations that move jobs overseas instead of creating jobs here at home, and close loopholes that benefit hedge fund managers. I also support a Wall Street trading fee to crack down on risky trading.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: 1. Protect and expand Social Security and Medicare to guarantee retirement security
2. Invest in education in every neighborhood so every child gets a fair opportunity
3. Reform the criminal justice system to treat drug addiction as a health issue and improve ex-offender reentry to help people rejoin their communities
4. Reform the campaign finance system to get big and secret money out of politics

Lih Young

Campaign Website: <http://vote-md.org/intro.aspx?id=mdyounglih>

1. 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

2. ECONOMY: Prosecute/eliminate " official misconduct-government gang-MURDER-FRAUD-CRIME-INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust/false/misleading practices; private-public; 3 branches, local-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.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: SUPPORT drawdown of US combat forces overseas; promote diplomacy. No War. No Assassinations; OPPOSE: unfair free trade agreements, genocides, land-grabbing; not for the best interest of general public for usa and foreign countries; not to benefit: warmongers; banking, automobiles, military industrial complex, related "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS".

4. 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, speedy processing of citizen application/replacement .

5. 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.

6. INEQUALITY: 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/litigations/levies/foreclosures

7. TAX REFORM: Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER-FRAUD- CRIME-INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust practices= ROBBER-ISM; false/misleading/abuse/deprivation; inc. civic non- profit, think tanks. Reduce tax burden/increase revenues. Promote productivity, accountability, public interest, social needs; solve socio- economic-political- election- media- budget- legislation-system problems.

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

U.S. Representative

Convention Delegates

DUTIES: Convention delegates elected in the primary are the people who officially elect their party's Presidential candidate at the national conventions. Presidential nominees are not elected directly by the voters in the primary. Rather, voters in each state choose delegates to represent them at the national conventions.

HOW ELECTED: The Republican ballot lists candidates for delegates to the Republican National Convention and the Presidential candidate each one supports. Republican voters in each Maryland congressional district will elect 3 delegates and 3 alternates. The Spring 2016 State Republican Convention will select 11 at-large delegates. Those delegates will go to the Republican National Convention, which will be held July 18 – July 21, 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Democratic ballot lists candidates for delegates to the Democratic National Convention and the Presidential candidate each one supports. Maryland will send 126 delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, PA, July 26 – July 28, 2016. Democratic voters in the Congressional districts will elect 64 delegates. Party rules determine the number of delegates to be elected from each district. The remaining 62 are chosen by the Maryland Democratic Party and consist of 31 appointed party leaders, 23 elected officials, and 8 alternate delegates.

Candidates for delegate were asked to respond to two questions:

QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications to serve as a convention delegate?

ISSUES: Why have you decided to pledge your support to your candidate?

VOTE411.org: Because of the very large number of candidates for convention delegates, it is not possible to include them in printed Voters' Guides. Information on all candidates for convention delegate is available at VOTE411.org.

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 determine whether a public official should be tried, if accused of a crime.

How Elected: Each of the 435 Representatives is elected to a two-year term, serving a specific district. Each State has at least one Representative, but the total number is based on the population in the most recent census. Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been citizens of the United States for at least 7 years and be residents of the state they want to represent.

Term: Two years

Base Salary: \$174,000

Questions

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of a Representative?
2. **ECONOMY:** What economic policies would you support to assist low and middle income citizens?
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** What are the most important foreign policy issues and how would you address them?
4. **IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, would you support in immigration policy?
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** What is the most pressing environmental problem and would measure would you support to address it?
6. **INEQUALITY:** What policies would you support to address increasing concern about economic, racial, and social inequality?
7. **TAX REFORM:** What changes, if any, would you support in federal tax policy?
8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats may vote for no more than 1.

Kristin Beck

Campaign Website: <http://www.beck4congress.us>

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a retired Navy SEAL with experience in foreign affairs that cover the Balkans, Middle East, Africa and Asia. I have combat experience in three wars and 13 deployments. I am a public speaker, fighting for human rights on a national level. I work as a volunteer helping veterans and a board member of a suicide prevention organization known as 41 percent.
2. **ECONOMY:** I have been a long standing advocate for setting the federal minimum wage at \$15 per hour. Everyone should be able to earn a living wage. I am also a proponent of the Earned Income Tax Credit for low income workers with families.
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** The rise of global terrorism is the most immediate threat to the interests of the US. ISIS and other groups are determined to kill or maim as many Americans and our allies as possible. We cannot negotiate with them. We must eliminate this terrorist organization and the networks that support them.
4. **IMMIGRATION:** We are a compassionate nation. We are a nation of immigrants. We will find compassionate solutions to the issues while encouraging legal immigration into our country. We will enforce E-Verify and implement new systems to record and monitor the locations of foreign visitors to make sure they do not overstay their visas.
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** Rising sea levels are threatening low-lying areas from Maine to Florida. Once we loose a major subway system to encroaching tidal waters we will see a national outcry to reduce greenhouse gasses. I intend to place solar panels on all schools as one step in cutting the production of CO2.
6. **INEQUALITY:** I have been fighting to end inequality on a number of fronts for years. There should be no difference between women's pay and men's. The income inequality gap must be reduced by starting with an increase in the minimum wage and the creation of new and high paying jobs.
7. **TAX REFORM:** I will propose a new transaction tax on stock sales. I will support the export of oil, natural

gas and manufactured exports to generate new tax revenue. I will support a simplified personal income tax as well as the elimination of all business tax loopholes.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: I will focus on creating public private partnerships to manufacture solar panels, wind turbines, advanced batteries, fuel cells and other products that traditional American industry is not concerned with. I will work to create a high end home appliance industry here in Maryland.

Steny H. Hoyer

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: For over 30 years in Congress, I have been an effective leader who works in a bipartisan way to deliver results for my constituents. I continue to fight tirelessly for economic development, have helped create and save nearly 23,000 jobs, and am dedicated to ensuring all Marylanders have access to middle class opportunities.

2. ECONOMY: I'm leading a jobs plan in Congress called Make It In America, which aims to spur the creation of well-paying jobs across the country and ensure that all Americans have the tools they need to get ahead in today's new economy. I support an increase in the minimum wage, access to affordable child care, and ensuring equal pay in the workplace - all of which would help American families.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: Two of the most important issues are the Iran nuclear deal and destroying ISIL. I've been a leader in calling for the most vigorous monitoring and enforcement regime possible - and for America to play a leading role in ensuring Iran abides by its commitments. In the effort to destroy ISIL, I am encouraging the Obama Administration to increase its efforts to demolish ISIL's energy resources.

4. IMMIGRATION: I support comprehensive immigration reform that will provide a timely pathway to citizenship. Fixing our broken immigration system is not only good for our economy, but it's the right thing to do and is supported by the majority of Americans.

5. ENVIRONMENT: We must take steps to address climate change. Climate change is a threat to our environment - including the Chesapeake Bay - public health, the economy, and national security. I will continue to support legislation to advance renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency, which will save families and businesses money, spur innovation and create well-paying jobs.

6. INEQUALITY: I have cosponsored legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2020. I am also a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act which would end wage discrimination against women and promote higher wages to help more Americans secure a place in the middle class. I also support bipartisan efforts that will help fix our country's broken criminal justice system.

7. TAX REFORM: I support comprehensive tax reform that simplifies the tax code, creates an environment for companies to bring jobs back to the U.S., and strengthens American competitiveness.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: I remain focused on protecting our military installations and federal facilities, as well as bringing the new, consolidated FBI headquarters to Prince George's County. I am dedicated to improving Maryland schools and keeping them among the best in the nation, as well as investing in our infrastructure and protecting our natural resources.

Debbie F. Wilson

No responses received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans may vote for no more than 1.

Mark Arness

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** Mark's career in aviation medicine and experience as a licensed pilot with over 1500 flight hours and 150 hours flown in 25 combat missions under enemy fire in the skies over war-torn Bosnia, Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan qualifies him for the most challenging service to constituents. Mark is a decorated veteran and caring physician, awarded the Air Medal for service under fire in aerial combat.
- 2. ECONOMY:** "Whatever you tax, you get less of!" Mark will vote FOR House Resolution 25, to revoke the 16th Amendment and defund the IRS to stop abusive collections and end taxpayer harassment! Mark will vote to revoke Obamacare, which is just a failed insurance scheme, and craft a healthcare plan that really works for Marylanders. Folks are now working two 30-hour jobs after cutbacks to evade tax penalties!
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** Mark will vote for viable military readiness of our Nation and to protect our interests abroad. This administration has emboldened our adversaries by pusillanimously allowing the former Soviets, led by former KGB chief and self-styled "New Tsar" Vlad Putin to roll unchallenged into the Crimea and now Eastern Ukraine. Our NATO borders, Alaska are next- the Russians have so stated on public record!
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** Mark will not support "Blanket amnesty" for all illegals! Mark does support a case-by-case legal pathway to naturalization for tax-paying immigrant workers who make valuable contributions to our communities! Mark will vote to stop 'free rides' and enforce our border laws in the interests of national security! Mark does support legal paths to naturalization, including the military service pathway.
- 5. ENVIRONMENT:** We must preserve our natural resources for our own use and enjoyment and for future generations. Mark supports initiatives to clean up the Bay and insure wildlife preservation for posterity, but taxing rain and chickens is not the way to pay for it! Mark will fight for Federal funding for the Chesapeake bay watershed program to support our fishing and farming industries.
- 6. INEQUALITY:** Preserve, protect and defend our Constitutional rights to liberty and the right of every citizen, no matter how small, to life! Mark will vote for legislation that recognizes that life begins at conception by divine inspiration to protect our children of all ages, and to preserve our God-given, fundamental second Amendment right to defend our persons and property, guaranteed by the Constitution!
- 7. TAX REFORM:** We must reform the IRS, or defund it and revoke the 16th Amendment! The IRS routinely violates citizens' Constitutional rights to due process; it levies penalties, garnishes wages and imposes harsh fees without any court order or legal review, as an 'administrative' process; taxpayers have no legal rights in defending themselves against this agency! We can raise revenue with a national sales tax.
- 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** ISIS is a clear and present danger which the current administration has failed to address. We need to pursue United States' interests overseas and aggressively confront and neutralize ISIS assets, materials, funding and curtail weapons. We must mount a multi-targeted campaign to destroy ISIL physical infrastructure, restrict weapons access, cut off banking assets and destroy ISIL logistics train.

Charles Sam Faddis

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been an Army officer and CIA operative. I spent twenty years abroad working against the enemies of this nation. Since my retirement I have taught college and graduate school, written six books and commented on national security and terrorism. I have run large organizations and worked under intense pressure in unforgiving environments.
- 2. ECONOMY:** If we are serious about helping low and middle income citizens, we need to get the economy moving and start creating jobs that pay a living wage. We don't need to be looking for ways to make people more comfortable in poverty. We need to be empowering them to get themselves out of poverty.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** We are confronted abroad by a host of enemies, a resurgent Russia, an increasingly aggressive China and a host of radical Islamic groups and nations. We should not be the world's policeman, but we do need to remain vigilant and to stand up for American national interests when confronted.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** Ultimately, we are going to have to find a way forward and resolve the status of the millions of illegal immigrants already here. Before we can do that, however, we have to regain control over our

southern border and immigration. The first step in doing so is to enforce existing immigration laws.

5. ENVIRONMENT: The most immediate environmental issue for Marylanders is the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. We have talked about it for decades. It is time to make it reality. We need to find practical, common sense ways to address the needs of the watershed while sustaining economic growth. Efforts to promote oyster aquaculture are a prime example of the kind of efforts that are possible if we work together.

6. INEQUALITY: We need to address the problem of the millions of American trapped in deep poverty. In order to do so we have to fix our educational system and stimulate economic growth. We don't need programs to make poor people a little more comfortable. We need to create the conditions that will allow people to pull themselves out of poverty.

7. TAX REFORM: Changes to tax policy should be geared toward stimulating the economy and creating jobs. We need to cut taxes on the middle class and made the tax code fairer and simpler. We need to cut corporate taxes, do away with double taxation of income owned abroad and make other changes to encourage investment. Government cannot create jobs. It can create the conditions, which will encourage job growth.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: We are \$19 trillion in debt. If we do not balance the budget and get spending under control nothing else matters. We will be bankrupt as a nation. The way ahead in this regard will be painful, but the longer we wait to confront this issue the harder it will get.

St. Mary's County Offices

St. Mary's County Board of Education at Large

DUTIES: The Board establishes specific policies that govern school system operations and has authority over fiscal year budgets, curriculum materials, textbooks, personnel appointments, capital improvements, land acquisitions, grant applications, and other policy decisions. In addition to selecting and appointing the Superintendent of Schools, the Board also employs legal counsel and external auditors.

TERM: Four years.

HOW ELECTED: This is a non-partisan position. During elections (both primary and general), any registered voter may vote for a candidate. However, only contested races (more than two candidates) appear on the primary ballot.

Questions

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

BUDGET: What areas within the school budget should be increased or decreased?

STANDARDS AND TESTING: How should the national standards for education ("Common Core" standards) be used to ensure a quality education for each child in the county?

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: How should our schools address the needs of students who are not planning to attend college?

TERM LIMITS: For or against? Please explain.

Candidates

Voters may vote for no more than 1.

Cathy Allen

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

QUALIFICATIONS: A four term member of the Board of Education, I have been part of hiring two superintendents; seen enrollment grow from 14,000+ to just over 18,000; and approved programmatic changes that led to an all time high graduation rate of 94.26%. My Board training, work at the state level and service as President of the state association (MABE) has helped make me a highly effective board member.

PRIORITIES: -Improving student achievement -Safe and orderly schools -Effective and efficient use of resources -Working to maintain local controls (decisions made at the local, not state or federal levels) -Recruit and retain highly effective staff through competitive compensation and supportive environment -Continuing and building on the collaborative relationship with the Commissioners of St. Mary's Co.

BUDGET: We must keep watch on staffing. Recent funding shifts at the state level have placed additional pressures on counties to cover pension costs. Result: personnel costs increasing from 84% of the budget to nearly 92% of the budget. State and federal unfunded mandates have significant impact. We must balance people and programs, always with priority on the classroom.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: Common Core set standards, Maryland developed the state curriculum based on the standards. The aim is to foster critical thinking with a deeper understanding of concepts so that students can apply their knowledge rather than simply citing facts. Quality comes from robust curriculum; appropriate testing to determine understanding; and programs to reach every child, dependent on their needs.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: A wide array of professions are available for study at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center. From Aviation Technology, Diesel Technology, Culinary Arts, Health Professions, Carpentry, Graphic Communications and on to Hospitality and Tourism and more, students have access to 23 programs to take students straight to the work force. Good careers with stable jobs.

TERM LIMITS: I can see both sides of this argument and each have merit. Constant turnover contributes to the loss of experience leading to repeated mistakes. No change can lead to stagnation and an unwillingness to consider different ideas. I believe, and have shown, experience is important. I believe it should be up to the

voters to decide whether someone deserves another term, not an arbitrary limit.

CHRIS KRUSH

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a retired teacher with 33 years of experience in the classroom in secondary education. I have also taught at the elementary level in summer school, adult education in adult night school, and I coached wrestling for 16 years at the secondary level.

PRIORITIES: My priorities on the Board of Education will be the school system's budget and the concerns and needs of the teachers, administrators, and support staff within the schools. If their needs are addressed, it will create a better learning environment for our students.

BUDGET: The school system's budget needs to be scrutinized carefully to eliminate all frivolous spending in areas that do not directly impact student development.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: To ensure a quality education for each child in the county, Common Core should be eliminated altogether. Each community should determine what policies best serve their populations.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: I feel that it is a disservice to students to direct everyone toward an academic outcome. Many students are not academic material, and many others just are not interested in an academically related career. Classes need to be provided for students who intend to pursue careers that do not require a college education.

TERM LIMITS: I think that term limits for the Board of Education members is a good idea for the same reasons that we have term limits on most publicly elected positions.

DEFOREST RATHBONE

Campaign Website: [http://Google DeForest Rathbone](http://Google%20DeForest%20Rathbone)

QUALIFICATIONS: Served on governing boards of Church and Credit Union; Facilities Engineering contract management experience, management of engineering, administrative and craft employees at National Bureau of Standards for 25 years; Teaching and writing training texts for international plumbers and pipe fitters union, and training apprenticeship instructors for 20 years; Author of education policy documents.

PRIORITIES: Working with health and school officials developing new policies for protecting schoolchildren and teachers from the damaging impacts of today's environment of dangerous illegal drugs threatening our schools and communities. Assisting in facility management decisions affecting budget and mission effectiveness. Advising in personnel problem resolution from my years of management experience.

BUDGET: I can't answer this until I see what the documented needs are. But since child health and safety are such important elements of the success of the schools, I would be interested in reviewing budget allocations in that area early in my service on the Board.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: I have not followed that issue closely enough to offer an opinion at this time. But after generations of children have been educated in public schools, I would hope that there would be a generally accepted consensus of what the best effective standards should be for all kids by now.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: My experience with trade craft education would enable me to evaluate policies for industrial education shop courses for children who may be better suited for good paying craft jobs after high school instead of college.

TERM LIMITS: I see good arguments on both sides: retaining experienced people on the one hand and refreshing the management pool with new experiences and ideas from younger hires. Periodic elections seem to keep this problem reasonably in check.

The League of Women Voters is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at www.lwv.org and www.VOTE411.org.