



Cecil County Voters' Guide

Published by the
League of Women Voters of
Maryland Education Fund

About this Voters' Guide

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. 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.**

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.

Join the League!

Be a part of making our communities FAIR, VIBRANT, and STRONG!

Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our state.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 90 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

Phone: 410-269-0232

Mail: 111 Cathedral Street, Ste 201
Annapolis MD 21401

Email: info@lwvmd.org

Web: www.lwvmd.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LWVMD

Donate to the League

The League of Women Voters **works to keep** government power in the hands of the people by helping residents to become educated, active, and engaged in public policy.

If you believe that this is important and want us to continue to provide forums and debates, Voters' Guides like this one, and other publications, make a **tax-deductible contribution** to the League of Women Voters of Maryland – Citizen Education Fund.

\$150__ \$100__ \$75__ \$50__ \$25__ other__

Send a check to **LWVMD Education Fund,**

111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201

Annapolis MD 21401

or donate online at

lwvmd.org

We depend on your donations for our work!

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.

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.

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.

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 (Withdrew)

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

Website www.johnkasich.com

Candidate has not responded.

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".

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: No response received by deadline.

2. ECONOMY: No response received by deadline.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: No response received by deadline.

4. IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

5. ENVIRONMENT: No response received by deadline.

6. INEQUALITY: No response received by deadline.

7. TAX REFORM: No response received by deadline.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

Greg Holmes

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** No response received by deadline.
- 2. ECONOMY:** No response received by deadline.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** No response received by deadline.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** No response received by deadline.
- 5. ENVIRONMENT:** No response received by deadline.
- 6. INEQUALITY:** No response received by deadline.
- 7. TAX REFORM:** No response received by deadline.
- 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** No response 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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: No response received by deadline.

2. ECONOMY: No response received by deadline.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: No response received by deadline.

4. IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

5. **ENVIRONMENT:** No response received by deadline.
6. **INEQUALITY:** No response received by deadline.
7. **TAX REFORM:** No response received by deadline.
8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** No response 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>

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** No response received by deadline.
2. **ECONOMY:** No response received by deadline.
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** No response received by deadline.
4. **IMMIGRATION:** No response received by deadline.
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** No response received by deadline.
6. **INEQUALITY:** No response received by deadline.
7. **TAX REFORM:** No response received by deadline.
8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** No response 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. Televisé candidate debate; maintain/disseminate accurate meaningful records.

United States Representative

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?

U.S. Representative District 1

Republican Candidates

Republicans may vote for no more than 1.

Jonathan Marvin Jr. Goff

Campaign Website: <http://www.jongoff-congress.com>

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** 56 years of age and a home owner, ran a business for many years, worked at Bethlehem Steel for 18 years. My family dates back to pre- Revolutionary War and a descendant of Jenny Wiley of Jenny Wiley State Park in Kentucky. People in my family have ran businesses that are the heartbeat of America such as Walt Disney in California, R.J. Reynolds wrap foil. I have been a citizen my entire life.
2. **ECONOMY:** Very Big Topic and there is so much that is on the brink weather or not America will make it through this mess Washington has created for all of us Americans. Oil prices are high on my list because it stabilizes our US currency, Gas Prices, Trade and all businesses that are conducted inside America. Our U.S. Debt is another big one. Obama has spent \$10,000,000,000.00 Trillion dollars and where did
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** We must be very careful how we deal with Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, North Korea and we should pull out of the United Nations and we should stop giving any money to countries that hate our guts. We need to stop being the policeman of the world. America needs to stay out completely from some countries. We shouldn't be telling everyone how to live their lives, our business belongs herein the United S
4. **IMMIGRATION:** Close the Borders and Railroads until they are secured. We have all these Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Homeland Security, FBI and Countless other Agencies. There is NO reason we can't secure our Borders in a matter of Days. Enforce the Immigration Laws we have already in Place. Illegals must go back and come into America the legal way, the Right and Lawful way. My business suffered

5. ENVIRONMENT: I live on a well so I will be the first on the clean water act. I had contracts with big companies keeping their places clean, sediment ponds etc. I was a landscaper for years and planted many, many trees. I cleaned my more than share of creeks and ponds and waterways. I know so much about this area that I could spend days just on this subject.

6. INEQUALITY: America has changed so much in culture since Obama. I will have to do more studies on the new figures so we can have a correct count on equality in the work force. I'm seeing discrimination on all fronts so we must be equal to all.

7. TAX REFORM: Flat Tax seems to be a good solution and I want to hear more about this as well. Government is way too big and there are certain programs that overlap each other. I want our government to spend much less and our common sense has been gone for a long time. Greed has got to completely stop. Remember we need to attract Businesses not Tax them away.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: Small businesses are being crushed by Companies that are breaking the laws by working illegals and there is no right way to do this and we have laws that are not enforced. B. I want to help make our country Great Again. C. America needs to be respected again with our allies and that trust needs to be regained. D. Limited Government in so many ways because it's hurting our Businesses and Jobs an

Andy Harris

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I've represented the First Congressional District for 3 terms, and sit on the Agriculture & Homeland Security subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations. In that role, I can affect many areas of importance to maintaining the rural economy of the 1st District. Since healthcare issues are of great concern to many Americans, my background as a physician for 35 years can also be valuable.

2. ECONOMY: Our economy has to grow at more than the current 2-2.5% pace, which it has had over the past 10 years. To do this we have to both lower the tax burden on the middle class and eliminate regulations that stifle our employers. A booming economy is the best way to help everyone in America. We should also take every opportunity to help people who are in the "safety net" climb out to independence.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: Where to start? From China to the Middle East to Eastern Europe to Central America our foreign policy is a disaster. No one respects the United States anymore as the leader of the free world. Our military is being decimated - and if we don't reverse the situation our future and our security are in question. First and foremost we have to recognize radical Islamic terrorism as an existential threat.

4. IMMIGRATION: As the son of immigrants I understand that legal immigrants add to the character of America. But first and foremost we are a nation of laws, and those who come to this country should expect to obey the law. We need legal immigrants and temporary workers on visas, but we must enforce those laws. The consequence of not enforcing our immigration laws results in the situation we now find ourselves in.

5. ENVIRONMENT: The First Congressional District borders one of our nation's greatest treasures - the Chesapeake Bay. For over a century we hadn't implemented common sense solutions like nutrient management plans to reduce pollutant runoff or adequate stormwater drainage to prevent sediment inflow. Reversing these problems will take time and require collaboration between all stakeholders and bordering states.

6. INEQUALITY: Racism in any form is unacceptable in a nation founded on the principle of equality. Every American deserves a shot at the American dream - regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender or religion. The best way to provide that opportunity is through strengthening our economy and removing barriers to participation for everyone. Of particular importance is providing educational choice for all.

7. TAX REFORM: The IRS has become a corrupt bureaucracy that assumes all Americans are criminals. That's why any tax reform plan has to diminish the influence of the IRS in our lives. Two ways that would achieve this are a flat tax or the "Fair Tax". We also have to reform our Federal corporate tax which is among the highest in the world, and drives our most successful employers overseas.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: I have either sponsored or cosponsored term limit legislation every year. We have to consider eliminating professional politicians from running our legislatures. It's not good in Annapolis, and it's not good in Washington. I have also been very active in enhancing medical research at the National Institutes of Health, where we need to find cures for diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's.

Sean M. Jackson

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I served 6 years active duty in U.S. Marine Corps (Honorably discharged). I have faithfully served with the Maryland State Police for over 19 years. 25 years of public service. I have served as a Commander at various barrack installations and logistic command. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Management (Executive Leadership) from Johns Hopkins University.
 - 2. ECONOMY:** Eliminate "Obamacare" (abused program and hurts small businesses). Implement a "Fair flat tax" for personal income tax and business (corporate) tax ("tithing"). Control federal spending (Cease fiscally supporting foreign countries - Invest in our nation). Revamp welfare system (non-sustainable). Entice U.S. corporations to keep their operations in the U.S.
 - 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** The most important foreign policy is our own "National Security." We need to control our borders. If we cannot properly vet individuals coming into our country, we will be vulnerable to attacks (physically & financially). We need to prevent Syrian refugees from being allowed into the U.S. / Eliminate ISIS / return all undocumented illegal aliens back to their native countries.
 - 4. IMMIGRATION:** Immigration is out of control in the U.S. We need secure our borders. Undocumented illegal aliens need to be returned to their native countries. I understand that farmers/watermen tend to hire workers from foreign countries due to the fact that there is a percentage of Americans out of work that decline to accept these arduous jobs. We can offer these migrant workers H2B visas (peak season).
 - 5. ENVIRONMENT:** The biggest environmental issue in District 1 is keeping the Chesapeake Bay clean. There is a fine balance between not over-regulating the farmers/poultry industry operations and keeping the bay clean for the waterman's livelihood. I do not believe the "flush tax" or the Stormwater fee ("rain tax") is the solution. Federally, we need to address this issue with Pennsylvania.
 - 6. INEQUALITY:** I have not created a policy to specifically address inequality as part of my political platform. I believe in equality for everyone regardless of sex, race, religion, etc... I do not support legislation (Acts, bills, etc...) that favor a particular segment of society. This creates a disadvantage for the remainder of the citizens not permitted to receive the benefits afforded to others.
 - 7. TAX REFORM:** I support a "Fair Flat" tax for personal income and business (corporate) taxes. Reduce corporate taxes to entice businesses to operate in the U.S. and not move their operations to foreign countries (save our jobs and tax base). Eliminate the death tax. Reduce federal taxes - allow States to adjust their taxes as needed for their individual States.
 - 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** * Protect our 2nd Amendments Rights (implement a nationwide "Open Carry" or "Concealed Weapon" policy for our legal gun owners. * Support our Veterans & Military.
* Revamp the welfare system (get able-bodied recipients back to work).
- I will gladly provide a more thorough response to each topic for any reader who would like additional information. "Thank You."

Michael D. Smigiel Sr.

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I served as an active duty US Marine then attended community college and received my AA. I later obtained my BA and my JD from law school. I spent 12 years in the Maryland House of Delegates. I served as the minority Parliamentarian, Vice Chair of the Eastern Shore Delegation and Chairman of the TEA Party Caucus and Cecil County Delegation. I spent ten years on the Judiciary Committee.
- 2. ECONOMY:** I would reduce big government burdens on private enterprise. I would reduce taxes, institute a flat tax, promote capitalism, open markets and expand deregulation. End deficit spending and reduce the national debt. When business is provided an environment in which it can grow and flourish then low and middle class citizens will also prosper. I would support more tax incentives for college.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** Islamic Terrorism must be stopped. Freeze terrorist assets and use sanctions against those who support terrorism. Destroy the military capability of terrorist. The unconstitutional agreement which allows Iran to build a bomb must be abrogated. Curtail Russian and Chinese expansion by supporting our allies and applying sanctions. We also need to secure the US borders.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** I oppose amnesty and voted against in State tuition for illegals. Con. Harris voted for amnesty for illegals (Cromnibus 2014) and to give illegals "in State tuition" (HB-253) 2003. Con. Harris

sponsored the bill to quadruple immigration visas. (HR 2758) 2015. I oppose giving local jobs, such as truck drivers, to foreign workers. Harris voted to give Casa de Maryland, \$100,000 (HB-340) 2007

5. ENVIRONMENT: In 2012 I was leading the call for stopping pollution from the Conowingo Dam destroying the Chesapeake Bay. This year Con. Harris voted to stop Maryland's oversight authority on pollution coming from the Dam, favoring his 4th largest campaign contributor, Exelon, over the residents of the 1st District. (HR-8). I would work to require Exelon to clean out the catch basins behind the Dam.

6. INEQUALITY: The best way to fight inequality is to make opportunity for success available to everyone who is willing to work for it. Making education affordable, job opportunities available and allowing citizens to keep and invest what they earn. Less government is more freedom.

7. TAX REFORM: I support a flat tax and oppose any new taxes. I support reducing taxes as a way of stimulating growth and entrepreneurship. I have taken and kept my no new tax pledges. I supported tax reductions for veterans and students. I will continue to oppose new taxes and will support tax reductions. Congressman Andy Harris voted for the largest tax increase in history. (Cromnibus bill 2014)

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: Adherence to the Constitution, protection of the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 10th Amendments, care for Veterans, a strong military, dismantling Obamacare. Stopping federal funding for abortions. Harris voted to fully fund Obamacare and to expand federally funded abortions. (Cromnibus 2014) All my positions are detailed at smigielforcongress.com. I can be reached 24/7 on my cell phone, 410-920-0128

Democratic Candidates

Democrats may vote for no more than 1.

Jim Ireton

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: As a former mayor and now a councilman of the 1st District's largest city, I know that results matter. As mayor I oversaw a 50% drop in violent crime over 6 years, dramatic improvements to the Wicomico River, and left Salisbury with a \$16 million surplus. I will stand up for what matters to my constituents; sustainable family farms, critical shortages in rural health care, and the blight of heroin

2. ECONOMY: The minimum wage needs to be increased and linked to inflation. While corporations enjoy record profits and tax breaks, a single parent working full time for minimum wage falls below the poverty line. We need to protect working families; guaranteeing economic security and purchasing power. I will fight for affordable healthcare and housing, access to pre-k, and pathways to higher education.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: ISIS is not just a threat to America and our allies, but to all of those subjected to its regime. We must continue airstrikes to support the Iraqi efforts to dislodge ISIS from their strongholds. Saudi Arabia, with its formidable military, must lead a regional coalition. We cannot tolerate rogue elements trading oil illegally with ISIS, and must continue strikes on oil infrastructure.

4. IMMIGRATION: We must pass comprehensive immigration reform that leads to citizenship for those working in this country. I won't stand for the destruction or separation of families. We are a nation of immigrants and we cannot turn our backs on our heritage. We can have a compassionate system that supports hard-working, productive families while still securing our borders.

5. ENVIRONMENT: The environment and the economy do not need to be competing issues. Green technology and innovation will lead to more jobs. Local farmers are working with the state and scientists to solve the problem of manure runoff. There are technological advances, like anaerobic digesters, that can convert waste into heat and electricity. It is vital that we commit resources to environmental innovation.

6. INEQUALITY: I will fight for equal funding for our schools. The quality of a school and your child's education should not depend on your zip code or assessable base. I will support initiatives to help communities address the issues of concern between citizens and their law enforcement officials. We must ensure that women get equal pay for equal work. LGBT Americans need more protection from discrimination.

7. TAX REFORM: I support tax reform that enables economic growth for the working and middle class. Those who have been economically successful have been able to do so partly through the benefits they reap from

taxpayer-funded projects and services. Corporations and the 1% should have to pay their fair share. We need to close corporate tax loopholes and use the revenue to pay for expanded healthcare and education

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: I will focus on Ocean City's economic growth, which is vital to the Eastern Shore and Maryland. We must expand healthcare in rural areas. Andy Harris wants to take insurance away from thousands of residents who were newly covered by the ACA. As mayor of Salisbury, I have seen how heroin abuse devastates families and communities. We must combat this scourge and make treatment available.

Joe Werner

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I Believe the most important qualifications are good judgement and common sense and a moral core. I have all of these to offer. I really do care about america and Maryland and what is best for all the people not just special money interest. I have a law degree and exp. working with the legislative clinic. I have a varied background in business. Working together we can build a better Maryland.

2. ECONOMY: Better trade practice , fair trade helping keep jobs in america. Making sure minimum wage keeps up with inflation. In 1972 the min.wage was \$1.40 . tunnel toll was .25 today min.wage should be \$17 a hour. Things where good when the wage was high. Also we would have less dependency on Government programs less need for food stamps if wages where higher. more people making a living wage=less gov.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: International terrorism , Trade agreements with the developing world , defense policy with regard to china and Russia. Our trade with China has been very one sided and our companies are helping china build a strong military . We need to rebuild our trade agreements , understand we have a great purpose and to keep a strong defense .We should use trade for the benefit of america and society.

4. IMMIGRATION: We need comprehensive Immigration reform. Set a higher number of visa's for the best and the brightest. We can attract the best educated and skilled people to america. We should have a policy to attract business and investors. We need to increase the number of work permits and be more efficient keeping track of immigrants.Bring the current imm. into our economy , secure our borders.

5. ENVIRONMENT: There are many concerns , climate change and pollution. Energy policy needs to reflect our current needs. We should drive investment into wind and solar and renewable energy. There also in a coming water shortage . We need to find a cheap way to desalinate water. This can be accomplished with a new energy policy. Renewable power can provide jobs and the energy to meet the new challenges we face.

6. INEQUALITY: So much of social and racial inequality starts with economic inequality. Education and job training.A living wage to lift working families out of Poverty.Fair trade policy. \$17 min. wage.New tax policy the way we tax. The economy has shifted and we are a consumer and information/service economy.Farming then manufacturing has changed to our new economy and we need to adapt and change tax policy.

7. TAX REFORM: Again we need to rework the tax code and tax policy to reflect the new economy. Working people and the 90 percent have made less of the gains with the new economy. We need a more progressive income tax , investment tax , a Vat tax. The new information economy and automated work force will drive more money away from wage earners and workers. We need a rethinking and working of the old system.

8. OTHER PRIORITIES: We are stuck going after new problems and a modern economy with the same old ideas. We have entered a new world and need to rethink how we do things.With a shrinking middle class we are losing respect for each other. We need more civility and respect.

Cecil County Executive

Description: (choose 1)

Chief executive officer of the county, responsible for appointing the heads of county departments and the members of boards, commissions or committees of county government. The County Executive also proposes a budget to the County Council, and generally oversees the operations of the county government. The County Executive may also recommend ordinances for adoption by the County Council

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$98,000

Questions

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
- 2. PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?
- 3. LAND USE:** What changes, if any, are needed to the county's land use policies?
- 4. BUDGET:** What areas within the county's budget should be increased or decreased?
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** What are the county's greatest needs with regard to transportation, and how can those be addressed?

Republican Candidates

Republicans may choose no more than 1

Joe Carabetta

Campaign Website: <http://joecarabetta4countyexecutive.com>

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** Engineering Degree: Penn State University
Work Experience: Project Manager DOD, Customer Focused, Developed Budgets, Task Oriented, Team Work, 34 years of service. Responsible for completing tasks on time and under budget.
Community Involvement: 25 years of Volunteer service to the Community
Accessible to all citizens and willing to listen to all ideas. Will defend the Constitution of the US.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** Fiscal responsibility, serving the citizens, taking care of our valued employees and most importantly promote our businesses which are the backbone of our economy. Work to attract businesses to expand the tax base so residential properties do not bear an unfair tax burden. Phasing out the business personal property tax which is just a paperwork burden on the government and businesses.
- 3. LAND USE:** Insure that our comprehensive plan is followed and that we offer opportunities for land preservation to preserve our way of life and the scenic beauty that is the key to our tourism. I am a founding member of the Cecil Land Trust which offers voluntary land preservation options. All zoning laws should be adhered to; any law that does not pass the common sense test should be amended or changed.
- 4. BUDGET:** The budget is a living document which is amended and changed throughout the fiscal year to deal with changing situations such as extreme weather. The bottom line on the entire budget is we must do what every family does; we must live within our available resources and not drown future generations in unnecessary debt.
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** The greatest needs in Cecil County continue to be the condition of 700 miles of county roads and bridges. The challenges of maintaining and improving roads, some of which were laid out in the 1800's, while not putting the county further into debt will certainly test decision makers for several years to come. Also working with the MARC system to expand rail service into Elkton is also important.

Greg MacDonald

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I have learned a strong skill set of project management, contract negotiation, and creation of interpersonal relationships during my 18+ years as an associate at WL Gore and Associates. These skills will allow me to effectively implement policies in accordance with our vision for Cecil County.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** Change the culture of restriction to a culture of cooperation. We have small business owners and landowners who wish to invest in Cecil County and are stopped with needless red tape. Fiscal responsibility will also be at the top of my list. Items such as the sports complex at Calvert are wasteful expenditures when we have \$44 million of unfunded capital projects for our schools.
- 3. LAND USE:** Ag preservation is a government subsidy just as the government subsidizes solar, wind and oil. Additionally placing development rights in the hands of our government rather than the hands of our citizens goes against the very foundation of our country. I would much prefer our farmers hand their property to their descendants or sell to others who wish to farm. Private ownership is much preferable.
- 4. BUDGET:** We should invest in our infrastructure. Our roads are in deplorable shape and need a large investment to get them back to par. We also need to begin funding the capital projects for our public schools. This funding will not increase the maintenance of effort costs for the county. We should not fund the next phase of the sports complex at Calvert. This is a needless expenditure, we have other needs

5. TRANSPORTATION: Cecil is a rural county and providing passable roads and bridges should be a top priority. Additionally the county has a robust public transportation system with buses providing service to most municipalities in the county and neighboring areas in Delaware. The areas of Chesapeake City, Cecilton, and Rising Sun are absent of services. We should investigate the potential benefit for these areas.

Alan McCarthy

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** - no response -
- 2. PRIORITIES:** - no response -
- 3. LAND USE:** - no response -
- 4. BUDGET:** - no response -
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** - no response -

Dan Schneckenburger

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** - no response -
- 2. PRIORITIES:** - no response -
- 3. LAND USE:** - no response -
- 4. BUDGET:** - no response -
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** - no response -

Democratic Candidates

Democrats may choose no more than 1

Wayne Lee Tome Sr.

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** 33 years working for Baltimore County Government a Charter form of Government. Held a supervisory position for 30 years in Management for last 10 years. I have 36 years as a Volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic with the Water Witch Fire Company, 30 years in a supervisory/management role. I served 4 years as a Cecil County Commissioner, 6 years on the Port Deposit Town Council, and Mayor 9 years.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** Provide a safe community to live in. Continue to combat the substance abuse problem and the related crime. Improve our economic development efforts to bolster the tax base and provide jobs locally. Provide for the educational system to enable young and adult learners to be ready to serve in those jobs. Improve the salaries of our County Government Workforce to retain experienced, dedicated staff.
- 3. LAND USE:** The growth corridor is adequate for the near term. We need to work with our Municipal Government partners and establish multi-faceted partnerships with private investors to continue to establish necessary infrastructure. We must make the overall cost of development attractive from an affordability perspective to remain competitive with other jurisdictions. Establish a fast track permitting process
- 4. BUDGET:** A holistic SWOT analysis of all departments would be my approach to identify cost savings and needs. The current employee insurance costs issue needs a complete outside cost and structural analysis. We must strive to adjust salaries and benefits to County Employees to stop losing people once they are trained. We need to strive to provide a quality service while striking a balance with taxes/fees.
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** Work to establish commerce and industry for jobs and tax base. Build walkable Communities that have amenities so folks can work, shop and recreate locally. Cecil County Transit is well established to expand as demand increases. Ensure medical transportation in the health dept. is sustained for those in need. Promote recreational travel by water. Assist Elkton in their quest for a train station.

Cecil County Council

Council District 1

Description: (choose 1)

DUTIES: The five-member Board of County Council Members and the County Executive make up the governing body of Cecil County. Council responsibilities include: confirming appointments made by the County Executive for individuals to head each principal operating department and individuals to serve on boards, commissions or committees; enacting the annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance, levying the amount of taxes required by the budget and approving budget amendments.

HOW ELECTED: Each Council Member is required to live in his/her District, but is elected at large to serve a four-year term. Terms are staggered, so that Districts 2, 3 and 4 are elected in Gubernatorial Elections, and Districts 1 and 5 in Presidential Elections.

Questions

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
2. **PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?
3. **LAND USE:** What changes, if any, are needed to the county's land use policies?
4. **BUDGET:** What areas within the county's budget should be increased or decreased?
5. **TRANSPORTATION:** What are the county's greatest needs with regard to transportation, and how can those be addressed?

Republican Candidates

Republicans may choose no more than 1

Tom Cole

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** - no response -
2. **PRIORITIES:** - no response -
3. **LAND USE:** - no response -
4. **BUDGET:** - no response -
5. **TRANSPORTATION:** - no response -

Bob Meffley

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a Cecil County business owner and have owned and operated H&B Plumbing & Heating for 36 years with 30 employees. I understand budgets, financial statements and fiscal reports. I have experienced hard times along with the good times. I sympathize with the small business owners on the taxes that are imposed on a family budget. I represent the small business owner as well as the average citizen.
2. **PRIORITIES:** My priorities are completing water, sewer, natural gas, and high speed internet along the Rt 40 corridor also includes streamline the permitting process. Improve public safety by supporting our Police, Fire and EMS Responders. I will closely examine the budget to find money for these organizations, which need funding. I also want to create jobs for local people and keep these jobs in Cecil County.
3. **LAND USE:** I have talked to farmers on their agriculture program and the lack of funding these past couple of years. I do encourage growth but not at the expense of our farm lands. I would review our zoning process. Cecil County is too eager to change zoning that does not create residual income for Cecil County. We need to start looking ahead when making zoning changes to see how it will affect the future.
4. **BUDGET:** Funding for Police, Fire, EMS responders and education need an increase. I spent time with principals and teachers in our district. They need funding for books, computers, and educational materials. Their

funding covers para-professionals who work with children with disabilities, we must not leave any child behind. Tax relief and a lean government would decrease our spending.

5. TRANSPORTATION: I would like to see an upgrade in our public transportation for our senior citizens, they have a lot to offer our communities with their knowledge and volunteer work. No one should be confined to their home. Cecil County is in the process of having an MARC express service by rail from Perryville to Wilmington. This would alleviate auto traffic on I-95 and reduce admissions pollution by vehicles.

Council District 5

Jackie Gregory

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

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Along with my extensive background and experience in education, I have been involved locally over the past few years and am informed about local issues. As a co-founder of the Cecil County Patriots, I have researched and spoken out on many local issues relating to the county budget, property rights, and the 2nd Amendment. I have both the time and commitment to devote to the job of councilwoman.

2. PRIORITIES: I will promote economic growth by reducing regulations and onerous taxes and fees, create greater efficiency and responsiveness in government, promote fiscal responsibility by living within our means, promote public safety, and protect our Constitutional rights, including the second amendment and property rights, against state and federal infringement. I will be an advocate for Cecil County.

3. LAND USE: We must continue to stand against the state's tier map legislation/Plan Maryland and promote local control of zoning. As a county, we should advocate for those who have been affected by restrictions on property rights resulting from state actions. We need to encourage business growth in our growth corridor, to bring in businesses that provide well paying jobs and add value to our community.

4. BUDGET: I will examine the County Executive's proposed budget carefully and equally scrutinize each department's request. We need to find opportunities to streamline operations and reduce inefficiencies. Each department must be evaluated individually, and we must prioritize our spending and live within our means. Budgets must be evaluated based on the available revenue and needs of the county.

5. TRANSPORTATION: We need to maintain our roads and bridges and work with our state delegation to restore the reduced funding we have received from highway user funds over the past few years. We also need to continue to work with the state to address the toll situation to make it easier for Cecil residents to do business with the rest of the state, and make sure that our state funded public transit is efficient.

Paul Trapani

1. QUALIFICATIONS: With over 40 years of small business ownership as a marine surveyor/consultant, and marina and restaurant owner I've learned how to prosper while working within a budget and under some oppressive regulations. Having served 2 years on The Cecil County Budget Advisory Board I'm knowledgeable of all areas of spending in my county.

2. PRIORITIES: My main objective is to improve the quality of life for Cecil County citizens. We can do this by cutting taxes, aggressively attacking the drug problem, and creating a more business friendly environment for existing and future commercial ventures. We must do this while maintaining personal freedoms and property rights.

3. LAND USE: In order to retain the natural beauty of Cecil County our land preservation program should continue to grow. Commercial development will best be served through growth in carefully planned business zones.

4. BUDGET: In order to lower taxes all agency budgets must be subjected to close scrutiny. Most agencies will be able to operate effectively without loss of personnel in spite of necessary cuts in funding. Lower taxes will result in increased spending in the private sector and a corresponding growth of small business.

5. TRANSPORTATION: We are fortunate to have Cecil Transit of our public transportation system. They have continued to increase ridership while maintaining low fares. Maintenance of county roads is another high priority. By cutting unnecessary funding in our budget we will be able to channel more funds into this undertaking.

Cecil County Board of Education

Description: (choose 1)

DUTIES: Members of the Board of Education determine and enforce policies that govern the Cecil County Public Schools. Among other responsibilities, the Board of Education appoints the Superintendent of Schools; initiates, reviews, and discusses educational issues; prepares and requests annual capital and operating budgets; and receives funding from county, state and federal sources.

HOW ELECTED: Each board member is required to live in his/her council district but is elected at large to serve a four year term. Terms are staggered so that Districts 3, 4, and 5 are elected in the gubernatorial election and Districts 1 and 2 in the presidential election. The board is made up of 5 voting members and 5 non-voting student members.

Questions

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
- 2. PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?
- 3. BUDGET:** What areas within the school budget, if any, should be increased or decreased?
- 4. 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?
- 5. COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** How should county schools address the needs of students who are not planning to attend college?

District 1

Kevin B. Emmerich

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** During my 33 years in the telecommunications industry as a technician and supervisor/project manager I was credited for making sound decisions in critical situations. My belief is that bringing corporate work experience into a government run organization would benefit the board by sharing a different view on issues.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** I'm a concerned citizen that wants every child in Cecil County to receive a quality education at an affordable cost to the taxpayer.
- 3. BUDGET:** I have issues with CCPS's spending. The Maintenance of Effort is a major problem for the County, causing it to lose control of it's own budget. Maintenance of Effort was an idea with good intentions, but produced uncontrollable consequences.
- 4. STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Common core was brought into this State without a legislative vote for one reason only, MONEY. Common core is an attempt to bring the liberal indoctrination that is happening in our colleges to K-12. Common core teaches freedom and liberty are bad and big central government is good.
- 5. COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** Early intervention from counselors into the student's future desires should move the student into programs to meet their objectives. Many employers teach job skills on their own. They just want to be assured newly hired employees can learn.

William Clark Manlove

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** - no response -
- 2. PRIORITIES:** - no response -
- 3. BUDGET:** - no response -
- 4. STANDARDS AND TESTING:** - no response -
- 5. COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** - no response -

District 2

Erin Doordan

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I believe my experience as a single mother of two young boys both of whom are currently receiving their education through the public schools in Cecil County, in addition to my varied experiences as a coach, an educator, a motivator, a team player, and a cooperative party in numerous roles throughout my career make me a solid candidate for this office.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** My priorities are straightforward. I intend to learn as much as possible about the county budget, the school district's budget, and to ensure that our schools, teachers, and administrators get the resources they need to educate this county's youth. I hope to contribute productively creating confident, intelligent, reasonable young leaders who can and will compete in our local and global economy.
- 3. LAND USE:** I need to research this topic more fully before answering this.
- 4. BUDGET:** Schools must be a top priority in every budget reviewed by the county. Studies have proven that reducing school budgets actually hurt the students who are being nurtured by those schools. This county must develop better strategies for funding all areas while always meeting the needs of the school district. I can not speak to which areas the county budget should decrease.
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** The county definitely needs better public transportation options to assist those most vulnerable, the old, the poor, the sick, and the young. Providing means for people to get to work should be a top priority. The roads are slowly getting the attention they need. School busses seem to be routed effectively but I would want to look into this further before committing to this answer.

Jim Fazzino

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

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I have over 18 years of teaching and leadership experience in public education. Experienced in: managing operating budgets, evaluating instructional programs, designing curriculum, supporting student with disabilities, increasing student access to technology, and coordinating student services and drop-out prevention options. I'm a parent of CCPS students, and remain invested in the future of CCPS.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** My priorities for this role include: supporting increased student achievement, promoting the value and benefit education plays in the development of Cecil County, fostering strong community/school partnerships, maintaining safe and secure schools that are inviting to students and visitors, and advocating for high-quality education for all students--regardless of individual ability or circumstance.
- 3. LAND USE:** Alternative energy sources on land around our schools have cost and environmental benefits, and I support projects such as geothermal heating and solar arrays in school construction. I support the use of land around the CCPS School of Tech for instructional purposes, allowing for partnership opportunities between businesses and schools, and I believe in preserving land for county recreation.
- 4. BUDGET:** In order to provide education that prepares each student for productive work after high school and/or a successful post-secondary school experience, I believe adequate funding for education (Cecil County Public Schools, Cecil College, and the Cecil County Public Library) is essential. I also believe that funding maintenance initiatives is critical for preserving Cecil County's physical facilities.
- 5. TRANSPORTATION:** In addition to promoting exceptional education to attract new residents, I support Cecil County strategic planning which envisions an increased and expanded MARC regional rail service. I believe in promoting Cecil Transit's ability to connect communities with schools, and I support maintaining a small CCPS transportation operation to inform school bus transportation agreements with contractors.

Ron Lobos

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** Self employed for over 25 years gives great knowledge on how to operate a business in both good and bad economic times. Being self employed encourages you on how to become creative in order to succeed even if the funding to grow is not there. Tough decisions are made on a daily basis that determine whether you will succeed in business or fail. In the government sector this is not realized.

2. PRIORITIES: To maximize the learning curve given to our children and preparing them to enter into the workforce and become productive citizens.

3. LAND USE: When excess land is given to the CCPS such as the excess property given to the new trade school, this land should be transferred back to the County where it can be utilized for economic development. Economic development is the driving force that produces tax dollars and funds the schools. If economic development grows, more tax revenue is produced enabling the county to better fund the schools.

4. BUDGET: A greater share of the budget should be used to hire additional qualified teachers and less should be spent on growing the Administration department. A greater share of the budget should directly benefit the end user (the students).

5. TRANSPORTATION: As far as I can see, the transportation needs of the county are being adequately fulfilled.