



# Talbot County Voters' Guide

Published by the  
League of Women Voters  
Of the MidShore

## **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 general election. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.**

## **Three Ways to Vote**

You may vote in person on Election Day, Tuesday, **November 8** from 7 AM to 8 PM.

You may vote by mail (absentee ballot).

You may vote in person during Early Voting.

**Mail (Absentee) Ballot Application:** State Board of Elections [website](#).  
or call the Talbot County Board of Elections at (410) 770-8099 to request an application.

## **Early Voting**

**Where:** Easton Fire House  
Aurora Park Dr.  
Easton, MD 21601

**When: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm from Thursday, October 27, 2016 through and including Thursday, November 3, 2016.**

*If you vote by Early Voting, you cannot vote by absentee ballot or on Election Day.*

# President of the United States

## Ground Rules

- 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; 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; and, 3) The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.
- 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](http://www.lwv.org) and [www.VOTE411.org](http://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.

### Candidates

#### **Donald Trump**

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

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

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

Campaign Phone: (646) 736-1779

Campaign Address: Donald J. Trump for President, INC 725 Fifth Ave New York, NY 10022

Personal Statement: The government of the US should be focused on serving the people of this great nation, not special interests. The government now rules rather than governs. The American people want their government back and together we will make America great again.

Top Three Goals: Secure our nation by restoring our leadership in the world; restore economic growth thru tax, trade, immigration, & energy reform; restore Constitutional limits on government.

## Questions:

Q: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

A: I have proposed tax, trade, energy and immigration reforms that will bring trillions of dollars and millions of jobs back to the United States. Through immigration reform, we will restore wage growth and reduce the related fiscal burdens on state and local governments. These reforms will help lift wages and will create opportunities for millions of Americans to get back in the workforce.

Q: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

A: We must re-establish the rule of law in this country. Criminal illegal immigrants will be deported. No one should be given the gift of U.S. citizenship based on illegal behavior.

Q: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

A: My administration will provide states with incentives to increase school choice options for parents and local school districts. Allowing the entrenched Washington education establishment and federal bureaucrats to leverage federal funds to dictate educational practices, curriculum and outcomes must be stopped. Control of K-12 education must be returned to parents and citizens locally.

Q: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

A: We are the leader of the free world - whether we like it or not - and we must ensure we seek partners willing to make sure our national interests are defended. We only gain this respect from both adversaries and allies by having a strong military, being clear about defeating radical Islam, & stopping rogue nations from attacking/threatening our citizens, economic interests, resources and allies.

Q: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

A: The best way to ensure social & racial justice is to return Constitutional limits on government & appoint Supreme Court Justices who will defend the Constitution, not rewrite it. The President must provide leadership & make sure the government works for the people. We must ensure low income & minority children learn to read at grade level & not trap them in failing schools based on zip code.

## **Hillary Clinton**

Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hillaryclinton>

Twitter: [twitter.com/HillaryClinton](https://twitter.com/HillaryClinton)

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

Campaign Phone: (646) 854-1432

Campaign Address: Hillary for America PO Box 5256 New York, NY 10185

Personal Statement: I'm running for President to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. I'll build an economy that works for everyone, continue my fight for children and families, and work to keep our country safe. And I'll unite Americans to take on all the challenges we face—because we're stronger together.

Top Three Goals: 1. Grow and strengthen our economy. 2. Curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics. 3. Ensure we have the partnerships to keep our country safe.

## Questions:

Q: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

A: My first priority will be to grow and strengthen our economy. I will invest in good-paying jobs, expand access to higher education, encourage companies to follow policies that put families first, and fight so that everyone pays their fair share. Every American deserves a good job, a successful career, and a productive life. Together, these efforts will work to make that a reality.

Q: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

A: In my first 100 days, I will introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. An estimated nine million lawful permanent residents are eligible to become U.S. citizens. As President, I will work to expand fee waivers and enhance outreach, so that more of the working poor can assume the full rights and responsibilities of becoming U.S. citizens.

Q: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

A: Every child deserves a high-quality education. I will double our investments in Early Head Start programs and ensure every 4-year old has access to high-quality preschool. I will do more to support our teachers, modernize our classrooms, and support STEM programs so that all public school students can learn computer science. We must give children the foundation to succeed, from pre-K to grade 12.

Q: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

A: The U.S. needs to exercise leadership and shape global events rather than be shaped by them. So many of our interests—our security, our economy, and our fight against climate change—require cooperation with our friends and allies, and with countries we may agree with on some things, and disagree with on others. As President, I'll ensure our country remains a source of leadership around the world.

Q: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

A: Too many Americans still face discrimination and mistreatment. I will fight to break down barriers and build ladders of opportunity. We will reform our criminal justice system, protect transgender individuals, defend voting rights, fight environmental injustice, fight for comprehensive immigration reform, end the epidemic of gun violence, and ensure the citizens of Puerto Rico are treated equally.

## Gary Johnson

Party: Libertarian

Biographical Info:

Website: <http://www.johnsonweld.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/govgaryjohnson/>

Twitter: [twitter.com/GovGaryJohnson](https://twitter.com/GovGaryJohnson)

Campaign Email: [Info@JohnsonWeld.com](mailto:Info@JohnsonWeld.com)  
Campaign Phone: (801) 303-8922  
Campaign Address: PO Box 4422 Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Personal Statement: I am Governor Gary Johnson and along with my running mate Governor William Weld we are honored to accept the invitation of the League of Women Voters to participate in their efforts to inform the voting American public of all options available to them during this Presidential election year.

Top Three Goals: Provide Congress a balanced budget within the first 100 days of office; Reduce (and in some cases eliminate) our military footprint abroad; Liberalize trade and economic activity.

### Questions:

Q: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

A: Submit to Congress a balanced budget to provide a template to stop unsustainable growth of the national debt, debt that weighs on employers, entrepreneurs and the economy. Support a simpler, fairer tax code that won't penalize productivity or investment. Fight to provide certainty in spending, taxes, and regulation so employers, entrepreneurs and investors make decisions that put people to work.

Q: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

A: Ensure a pathway to citizenship for deserving immigrants by first establishing a way for non-criminal undocumented immigrants to achieve documented status. After that crucial first step, the pathway to citizenship will be the same as it is for all immigrants. No cutting the line. No unfair advantages. Just a legal status that allows immigrants to pursue the traditional path to becoming a citizen.

Q: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

A: Education works best when decentralized. Since President Carter created the Dept. of Education, test scores have stagnated despite any new initiatives or spending programs. Parents and teachers make the best decisions for students, not bureaucrats at the DoE. Education is traditionally a state and local responsibility, and should remain so for innovation, best practices and even competition.

Q: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

A: Above all, we must maintain a national defense that is second to none. Government's first responsibility is to protect us from threats abroad. If attacked, we respond. Our greatest assets are economy and culture. Blue jeans and computers did more to win the Cold War than stockpiled warheads. I will pursue vigorous diplomacy based on our economic might, not idle threats and military interventions.

Q: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

A: I would do everything in the Presidency's power to end the militarization of the police. I would end the failed drug war, which unfairly targets communities of color. I would use the powers of the Federal Government to protect the civil liberties of all Americans, aggressively enforcing 14th Amendment protections. I would continue the work to help all Americans to achieve equality of opportunity.

## Jill Stein

Party: Green

### Biographical Info:

Website: <http://jill2016.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/drjillstein>

Twitter: [twitter.com/DrJillStein](https://twitter.com/DrJillStein)

Campaign Email: [info@jill2016.com](mailto:info@jill2016.com)

Campaign Phone: (347) 425-1910

Campaign Address: 318 Franklin Ave Brooklyn, NY 11238

Personal Statement: After a career in clinical medicine, I am now practicing political medicine, running for President to help heal our ailing nation. Your vote for me sends a clear signal that you want a new, principled politics that puts people, planet and peace over profit.

Top Three Goals: 1. Green job-creation to fight climate change. 2. A fair economy that eliminates unemployment 3. Justice, true democracy, and respect for all human beings.

### Questions:

Q: What will you do to support a vibrant economy across the U.S.?

- A:
- Eliminate unemployment by creating a job for every American who needs work.
  - Repeal NAFTA and other trade agreements that export our jobs overseas and create immigration surges.
  - Create 20 million green jobs to stimulate the economy improving our health by cleaning up our land, air, and water.
  - Protect consumers and small businesses from big banks and Wall Street predators.

Q: What, if any, actions will you support to create a pathway to citizenship?

A: First, end the massive deportation schemes that have torn families apart. I would also end the so-called Secure Communities program that has led to abuse of both citizens and non-citizens. End the misguided free trade agreements and regime change wars that have forced people to emigrate for their own survival. Finally, provide a welcoming and legal path to citizenship for current immigrants.

Q: What should government do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

A: 1) Protect our public schools from privatization schemes that will inevitably undermine the American dream of quality public education for all.

2) Increase federal funding of public schools to make sure all school districts have the financial resources they need to provide quality education.

3) Ensure that kids come to school ready to learn: healthy, nourished, and secure.

Q: What actions would you support the U.S. undertake to protect its interests abroad?

A: Forge a new foreign policy based solidly on diplomacy, international law, respect for human rights, and consistent nonviolent support for democratic movements around the world. End the misguided policies of militarism that have produced terrorist organizations, refugee crises, failed states, and a bloated military that we can no longer afford.

Q: What kinds of policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice for all Americans?

A: My plan to end unemployment will transform the economic life of low income communities that are now struggling with unemployment rates two or three times the national average. Coupled with my commitment to quality public schools and community empowerment, we can not just lessen racial disparity, but bring it to an end.

## 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?

### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

#### **Kathy Szeliga**

Republican

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

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Maryland small business owner, I understand the tools business leaders and job creators need to get the people of Maryland back to work. After working to elect Governor Larry Hogan in 2014, I was selected to serve as the minority leader in the State House. Maryland is starting to change for the better; now we need to bring real change to Washington.
2. **ECONOMY:** We need to empower more Marylanders with opportunities to achieve the American dream. By improving our education system, we can help more people improve their lives and increase their incomes. Our students should be presented with as many options as possible so they are fully prepared for the current job market, including charter schools or vocational programs.
3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** One of the most serious threats facing our country is radical Islamic

terrorism. Due to broken promises to our allies and unfulfilled threats to our enemies, America's word is no longer taken seriously on the global stage making us an ineffective leader against terrorism. One solution is to work with our allies around the globe who are fighting against radical Islamic terrorist groups.

4. **IMMIGRATION:** Career politicians have failed people on both sides of this discussion for decades to the point that no one trusts the government when it comes to fixing both our legal and illegal immigration problems. Until we are able to secure our borders, the American people will not trust Congress to do anything else. That is why it must be our top priority.

5. **ENVIRONMENT:** The health of the Chesapeake Bay is Maryland's priority. The Bay watershed goes from New York to Virginia. We need equitable, fair and common sense solutions to cleaning up our Bay from a multi-state compact. The Rain Tax is an example of a ridiculous policy that required 9% of the watershed land users to bear responsibility for environmental cleanup while excusing the other 91%.

6. **INEQUALITY:** Education and jobs. The fact that we are not preparing our students for the true job market they are facing. We need plumbers, military personnel, and people in law enforcements just as much as we need doctors, lawyers, and accountants. That is why it is extremely important that we reform our education system so that our children are given every opportunity.

7. **TAX REFORM:** Our tax code is yet another example that the federal government has become too complex for the average person to navigate. The tax code is more than 73,000 pages long. There is no way Maryland families and small businesses could begin to understand it. We must simplify our tax code and eliminate loopholes.

8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** As the daughter of an Army officer, I strongly believe we must honor the promises we have made to our men and women in uniform. But right now, we are failing them. The VA is a bureaucratic nightmare and needs immediate reform. These brave men and women have sacrificed so much to keep our country safe – it is the least we can do.

## Chris Van Hollen

Democrat

**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

## Margaret Flowers

Green

**Campaign Website:** <http://flowersforsenate.org>

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I practiced pediatrics for 15 years and left practice to do advocacy work in 2007. Since then I have worked on a broad range of issues at the state and national levels. I have helped to write legislation, testified before committees, educated legislators and their staff and organized campaigns for social change. I have also written about a broad range of issues, both analyses and about solutions.

2. **ECONOMY:** Through my project "It's Our Economy" I have worked to educate about solutions that give people greater control over the economy and build community wealth. These include transitioning from corporate subsidies to a guaranteed basic income to end poverty, support for decentralized community-owned solar power, support for cooperatives, doubling social security benefits and improved Medicare for all.

3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** First is to recognize that the U.S. is the largest empire in the history of the world and that our aggressive foreign policy is creating greater insecurity. The empire economy is hurting our ability to meet our domestic needs. We need to scale back our global military presence, move to greater use of diplomacy and take the profit out of war. We also need to lead a global nuclear disarmament.

4. **IMMIGRATION:** I would stop detention and deportation of immigrants and militarization of our borders. Greater emphasis should be placed on changing policies that drive immigration: trade agreements and other economic practices that create debt and extreme poverty, the failed drug war and military intervention that bring violence and instability. All workers should have safe working conditions and a living wage.

5. **ENVIRONMENT:** Extreme extraction and use of fossil fuels and uranium for energy are poisoning the water, land and air and worsening climate change. We must move rapidly to a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy economy through a large scale just transition to produce sustainable sources of energy and clean transportation and to regenerative agriculture techniques and wetland restoration. This will create more jobs.

6. **INEQUALITY:** We need to hold Wall Street executives accountable and create public and postal banks. I support taking the profit out of prisons, ending bail and jail time for nonviolent offenses, a public health approach to drugs and greater community control over police. I support equal access to high quality public education, reinvestment in low income communities and

affordable housing, not gentrification.

7. **TAX REFORM:** We need to return to high tax rates on the wealthiest as there were in the middle of the last century to stop the hoarding of wealth and stimulate reinvestment in the economy. In this global era, we need a global tax to end the hiding of wealth in tax havens. We need to lift the cap on the Social Security tax to increase benefits and raise the Medicare tax to expand improved Medicare to everyone.

8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** A 21st century model of fair trade that improves conditions for all workers and protects the environment. We need to treat access to basic necessities and information as public goods, not commodities. I support municipal internet and net neutrality. We need a national water plan and food labeling laws. We need to end modern slavery and genocide of Indigenous people and promote self-determination.

## U.S. Representative District 1

**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 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?

### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

#### **Andy Harris**

Republican

**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.

## Joe Werner

Democrat

**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 were good when the wage was high. Also we

would have less dependency on Government programs less need for food stamps if wages were 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.

## **Matt Beers**

Libertarian

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

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** As a native of the district, I am someone who understands the needs of our community. I understand that the best way to move our country forward is by working with people, regardless of political philosophy, to come up with meaningful solutions to the problems we all face. Once elected, my foremost concern will be representing the views of my constituents, and not engaging in party politics.

2. **ECONOMY:** In order to help low and middle income citizens in this country we need to eliminate the barriers stopping them from achieving higher wages, and gaining better employment. I would work with the people in our district to sponsor legislation that will make it easier for people of all economic backgrounds to pursue opportunities through free-market principles and the benefit of mutual exchange.

3. **FOREIGN POLICY:** The most pressing foreign policy issue facing our country is our overseas involvement that has resulted from an interventionist foreign policy. The policies pursued by both Democrats and Republicans has left our country in debt, and less safe. We need to stop entangling ourselves in the affairs of other nations, which over the years has weakened our political and economic standing around the world

4. **IMMIGRATION:** Immigration has been, and is now, the cornerstone to success in this country. A healthy immigration system makes our country stronger by diversifying the workforce, and bringing a blend of ideas that will enable us to creatively solve problems. If elected I would work to increase the immigration quota, allowing more people to come in to this country and help make us a more prosperous nation.
5. **ENVIRONMENT:** We need to take common sense steps towards preserving our environment in both the short and long term. The market is the best mechanism for driving innovation, and providing incentives for the use of new technologies that lower cost and reduce the harmful effects on our environment. We must refrain from legislating restrictions that force businesses and people into economic hardship.
6. **INEQUALITY:** Economic equality is best achieved through a free-market system that is open to competition, which has not been the case in recent decades. We must end the corporate welfare state in this country by ending subsidies which benefit large corporations, and force them to compete on the same playing field as everyone else. Competition enables all people to have the same opportunities to succeed.
7. **TAX REFORM:** In order for America to be competitive in a global economy we need to have a tax system that brings manufacturing and other businesses back to the U.S. A burdensome tax code and a poor business climate has resulted in the loss of jobs to other countries. I would work with all parties to move towards a simplified tax code that brings jobs back to the country and leads to economic growth.
8. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** An issue plaguing our country and hindering progress is the two party duopoly shared by Democrats and Republicans at all levels of government. Both parties have contributed to gerrymandering and ballot access laws that suppress the views of anyone not affiliated with either party. Voting for third-party candidate is a step toward ending political gridlock and the polarization of issues.

## **Talbot County Circuit Court Judge**

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Circuit Court, which is a trial court of general jurisdiction covering major civil cases and more serious criminal matters. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

**SALARY:** \$154,433

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

**HOW ELECTED:** The state is divided into 8 Judicial Circuits. The General Assembly determines the number of judges in each circuit and county. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office. Each newly appointed Circuit Court judge then must stand for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. One or more other qualified members of the bar may also run to fill the vacancy. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots. The winners of each primary (equal to the number of seats to be filled) advance to the general election ballot, but without party designation.

### **Questions**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of a Judge of the Circuit Court?
2. **COURT NEEDS:** What are the areas of greatest need in Maryland's judicial system?
3. **ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What actions would you propose to provide individuals with more access to the judicial system and legal assistance?
4. **EQUALITY:** What steps can the courts take to reduce the risk that prejudices may influence the outcome of legal proceedings?

## **Candidates**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Stephen Kehoe**

**1. QUALIFICATIONS:** Prior to becoming a judge in September 2014, I had been a lawyer for nearly 28 years. I had a broad range of cases that have helped me understand the many cases that I hear.

**2. COURT NEEDS:** Problem solving courts help people with addictions, mental illness or co-occurring issues get oversight to make sure that their problems do not cause them to get lost and give them the opportunity for healthy and productive lives. The current rise in drug use, particularly the heroin epidemic, underscores the need for this hands-on approach to the sources of crime in our community.

**3. ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** The Maryland judiciary emphasizes access to justice to give pro se litigants guidance in presenting their cases. I try to make sure that anyone, whether they are represented by an attorney or not, has the opportunity to tell their story the way they wanted to be told.

**4. EQUALITY:** Judges take an oath to act without partiality or prejudice, and, therefore, it is incumbent on judges to make sure that all proceedings are fair and all people are treated equally before the law. It is important to be patient with the parties appearing before me to make sure that they are heard.

## **Appellate Court**

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

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans' Court in cases brought before it. The Court, usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent.

**SALARY:** 163,633 annual base

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

**HOW ELECTED:** When there is a vacancy on the Court of Special Appeals, the governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office, with the consent of the State Senate. Once appointed, the appellate judge holds the office until the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. At that time, the judge runs for an uncontested election for a ten-year term on their record (yes or no for continuance in office). No one is permitted to file against them. If the incumbent judge is approved, the judge faces another "retention election" every ten years to continue in office. If the incumbent judge is rejected by the voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment. The Court is composed of 15 judges: eight at large and one each from seven appellate judicial districts.

### **Questions**

**1. COURT NEEDS:** What are the areas of greatest need in Maryland's judicial system?

**2. ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What actions would you support to provide individuals with more access to the judicial system and legal assistance?

**3. EQUALITY:** What steps can the courts take to reduce the risk that prejudices may influence the outcome of legal proceedings?

## Candidates

Vote to confirm or not to confirm each candidate.

### **Dan Friedman**

1. **COURT NEEDS:** No response received by deadline.
2. **ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** No response received by deadline.
3. **EQUALITY:** No response received by deadline.

## **Talbot County Offices**

### **Talbot County Board of Education**

**DUTIES:** The Talbot County Board of Education appoints the Superintendent of Education, approves the school system budget, and develops policies. Board meetings are open to the public and announced ahead of time.

**TERM:** Four years.

**SALARY:** \$3600 (President); \$3200 (members).

**HOW ELECTED:** Seven members are elected by school district. A student member is selected by administrators and student governments of the two high schools, rotating between the two schools. The student member serves a one-year term.

### Questions

**BACKGROUND:** What are your qualifications for this office?

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities, and what do you see as the greatest challenge?

**BUDGET:** How would you work with the County Council to develop an education budget that meets their approval?

**ROLE:** What do you see as your role in working with the school system to attain educational excellence for Talbot County students?

## **Talbot County Board of Education District 2**

### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

### **Juanita Sue Hopkins**

(N)

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

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

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

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

## Talbot County Board of Education District 4

### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

#### **Susie Hayward**

(N)

**BACKGROUND:** As a resident of Talbot County for the past 16 yrs and an additional 7 yrs on the Eastern Shore. I know the struggles our small County has in trying to provide the best for our community on a small budget. I sat on the Board of Realtors and was Chairman of their Legislative Community. I sat on the Talbot County Economic Development Commission. My Grandson attends Easton High.

**PRIORITIES:** I will make sure that the limited funds we have are spent wisely. Work to curtail the unnecessary mandates and regulations. Assure our teachers are paid a living wage to get and keep the best and brightest for our children. Most of all I will make sure our children; the future leaders of our community get the best education available.

**BUDGET:** The Council and Citizens must have confidence in the School Board; they must believe that the funds given to the Board are being used wisely and efficiently. They need to see results that our students are given the best education. To achieve this there must be transparency and open dialogue. Everyone needs to speak out, parents included and we each need to listen.

**ROLE:** I have seen innovative ways of overcoming challenges in the classrooms. Our teachers share successful techniques with each other, they reach out beyond our community to find and learn better, more innovated ways to teach our students. It is my duty to assure that this continues, to review and monitor the results and to join in their effort to provide quality education for all students.

## Talbot County Board of Education District 5

### Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

#### **Susan Delean-Botkin**

(N)

**BACKGROUND:** As a health care professional in Talbot County for 20 years, I have the privilege of interacting with students, parents, teachers and administrators, as well as employers. I hear the concerns, the successes and the needs expressed by this diverse county wide group. This daily contact provides me with a strong base to advocate for the students for their future, and Talbot County's future.

**PRIORITIES:** Priorities: build for the future with stronger schools, attract and retain more innovative teachers, and better prepare our students for their roles in life; recognize the technology needs of current and future business in order to become an educated, technology centered job market - while remaining a traditional Eastern Shore character Challenge: 50% of our current students are FARM eligible

**BUDGET:** Budgets must balance more than the dollars. They need to look at the short and long term needs of the total Talbot County system. An investment in solid education potentially brings back more tax dollars and stimulates future economic growth. As a business person, I



would add experience in bridging concerns between the County Council and the Talbot County School system

**ROLE:** As a successful Talbot County business person, parent and grandparent, I admire what has been done in Talbot County by the school administrators, teachers, parents and students. I would strive to encourage further strengthening of the basic education system, and strongly advocate for innovation that stimulates excellence and prepares students for a positive workplace future.

## **David Short**

(N)

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

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

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

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

## **Talbot County Board of Education District 6**

### **Candidates**

Vote for no more than 1.

### **Harry Rieck, III**

(N)

**BACKGROUND:** I previously served on the TCPS Board of Education for one year and, prior to filing as a candidate, was a member of the TCPS Ethics Panel. Both of our children are students in TCPS. During the course of our children's education, I have volunteered in various capacities in their schools and worked closely with school administrators and educators to enhance their educational opportunities.

**PRIORITIES:** My priority is making TCPS the best public schools in Maryland. I believe that great public schools are the single most important driver of improving economic opportunities and outcomes for Talbot County's residents. My greatest challenge as a member of the BOE will be to convince our elected officials to make the necessary investments in our students, teachers, administrators and support staff.

**BUDGET:** As a member of the BOE, my sole responsibility towards the County Council is to be a tireless, single-minded advocate for TCPS. I am hopeful that the Council will join me in making it a County priority to steadily elevate TCPS into one the State's premier public school systems. If both the Council and the BOE have the same intention, the budgeting process easily will fall into place.

**ROLE:** As a member of the Board of Education, my primary duties will be to support our Superintendent, provide insight and information based on feedback from District 6 residents, and provide perspective based on my own work and personal experiences to our Superintendent and other BOE members. And, again, I will be an unrelenting advocate for our students, teachers, administrators and support staff.

# Maryland Ballot Questions

## Question 1

**Constitutional Amendment:** Process to Fill Vacancy in the Office of Attorney General or Comptroller of Maryland (Amending Article V, Section 5 and Article VI, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution)

**Ballot Language:** Changes the way the Governor fills a vacancy of the Attorney General or the Comptroller and requires a special election for vacancies that occur on or before a certain date. Under current law, the Governor fills a vacancy by appointing an individual to serve for the remainder of the term. Under the amended law, if the vacating Attorney General or Comptroller was a member of a political party, the Governor must fill the vacancy from a list of three names provided by the political party of the vacating official, and if no names are provided by the political party within a set time period, then the Governor must select a successor from the political party of the vacating official. If the vacating Attorney General or Comptroller was not a member of a political party, then the amended law requires the Governor to appoint any qualified individual. The Governor must make the appointment within a set time period following the vacancy. The amended law requires a special election to replace the successor if the vacancy occurs early enough in the term to allow for candidates to participate in the regular elections held in the second year of the vacating official's term.

**Origin of the ballot question:** The 2016 session of the General Assembly passed legislation (HB 260) proposing a constitutional amendment to change how vacancies in the offices of Attorney General and Comptroller will be filled. A bill that amends the Maryland Constitution requires a three-fifth vote in each chamber (Maryland Senate and House of Delegates) and approval by the voters at the next general election.

**Present Practice:** Under the Maryland Constitution, when a vacancy occurs in the office of the Attorney General or Comptroller, the Governor appoints a person to serve for the rest of that term. Appointment of the Comptroller also requires the approval of the Maryland Senate. The Governor is not required to choose someone of the same political affiliation as the person being replaced. There also is no provision for the voters to choose someone to fill a vacancy in either office through a special election, no matter how much time is left in the term of office.

**Proposed Change:** The Governor would be required to appoint a replacement Attorney General or Comptroller within 30 days of the vacancy, with someone from a list of three persons submitted by the State Central Committee of the political party of the previous office holder. (If the person being replaced was not affiliated with a political party, the Governor could appoint any qualified person.) The appointed person would serve for the rest of the original term if the vacancy occurs in the last two years of the term. However, if the vacancy occurs six weeks before a scheduled presidential primary (that is, there are more than two years remaining in the term) a special election would be held as part of the presidential election process.

### Arguments in Favor:

- The person appointed by the Governor must be of the same political affiliation as the person being replaced. This reflects the preferences of the voters when they chose the Attorney General or Comptroller at the last election.
- If there are more than two years left in the term, the voters are able to choose who will fill the office at special elections held at the same time as the next presidential primary and general elections.

- By choosing the new official at the same time as the scheduled elections, there would be no additional costs for conducting separate special elections.
- It is likely that many more voters would participate if the vacancy is filled at a regularly scheduled election, than if the special elections were held at a separate time.

**Arguments Against:**

- Requiring the Governor to appoint someone recommended by a political party central committee gives power to a small group of people elected only by members of that political party.
- Under current rules, the Governor may appoint a qualified person of any political affiliation.
- Holding a special election to choose someone to fill the last two years of a term when the Governor has already appointed a replacement may result in frequent changes in leadership.

**A vote FOR the constitutional amendment means** the Maryland Constitution would be amended to

- (1) require the Governor to fill a vacancy for Attorney General or Comptroller with someone from the same political affiliation as the person being replaced; and
- (2) require that a replacement be elected at the same time as the presidential election if more than two years are left in the term.

**A vote AGAINST the constitutional amendment means** the Maryland Constitution would not be amended. When a vacancy occurs, the Governor may appoint someone of any political affiliation to fill the rest of the term of Attorney General or Comptroller.