



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



Polling places      Election dates  
Absentee ballot info  
And the candidates' views  
on the issues  
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

TO BUILD YOUR *VOTERS' GUIDE*

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## 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.**

### In partisan races, these abbreviations are used.

DEM = Democratic Party

REP = Republican Party

LBT = Libertarian Party

GRN = Green Party

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## Ground Rules for Candidates for President

- 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.

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## 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.

## 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?

### Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Kathy Szeliga (REP)**

**Campaign Website:** [kathyformaryland.com](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**  
**(DEM)**

**Campaign Website:** [vanhollen.org](http://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**

**(GRN)**

**Campaign Website:** [flowersforsenate.org](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.

**Robert T. Robinson (Write-in)**

**(DEM)**

**Campaign Website:** [premroserobinson](http://premroserobinson.com)

**1. QUALIFICATIONS:** My political ambition started in 1976, the Bicentennial with a walking Campaign to All 23 County seats the State of MARYLAND. [ FORTY YEARS IN POLITICS ]. I am continuing my Education in Political Sciences. I have lived in MARYLAND all my life. I ran for the MD. Senate in 2007. I am 72 Years old and knowledge of the Seniors NEEDS. Past member and Board of Saint Patrick Roman Catholic Church.

**2. ECONOMY:** Provide Dental Care for ALL Senior Citizens. Safety Deposit BOXES for ALL U. S. Citizens. Free College Education the Ages 55 and Over. People to use all resources and Citizen be informed to the G.N. P..

**3. FOREIGN POLICY:** If I am elected your Senator , I will Pass Legislation for SOVERN STATES, COUNTRYS, with MORIAL, MILITARY, and Fianicial SUPPORT. Pass Legislation to keep Businesses and Industrys in the U. S.. No loop-holes or TAX Breaks for these Inties.

**4. IMMIGRATION:** Have all Immigrants Stand in line for under going State Policies and for them Learn to Speak the English Language. Pass Legislation for more Immigants to Aquire more EDUCATION.

**5. ENVIRONMENT:** To inforce the THREE Ps , Pollution, Population and Provity. Up grade the Better Water Quality Act of the 1900s. Better FOOD Inspections . Do away with Old DAMS Combind ELECTRIC GRIDS for effanc ELECTRICITY, ETC..

**6. INEQUALITY:** Push for more free education for Blacks. Speake on MORIAL vales and to Curve Racial Viliance, ETC..

**7. TAX REFORM:** Tax collectors were present Back-in Bibicial Times and Should Be Inforced! Ues Checks and Balances ! Have the Wealthy Pay more TAXS , ETC.

**8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** I am a Grue ON the ENVIRNOMENT , limit Water USE, Bioal Chemistry in Popular CROPS, Inprovize for to help in Addition Resources. Put Water- Meaters on all Fire Hydrens , ETC..

**Charles U. Smith (Write-in)**  
**(DEM)**

**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 .

**Lih Young (Write-in)**  
**(DEM)**

**Campaign Website:** [vote-md.org/intro.aspx?id=mdyounglih](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. Televised candidate debate; maintain/disseminate accurate meaningful records.

## US Congressional Offices

### U.S. Representative District 5

**Duties:** Representatives make laws along with the members of the Senate, and may conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Representatives determine whether a public official should be tried, if accused of a crime.

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

**Term:** Two years

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

#### Questions

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

#### Candidates

*Vote for no more than 1.*

**Mark Arness**

**(REP)**

**Campaign Website:** [arnessforcongress.com](http://arnessforcongress.com)

**1. QUALIFICATIONS:** Mark's career in aviation medicine and experience as a licensed pilot with over 1500 flight hours and 150 hours flown in 25 combat missions under enemy fire in the skies over war-torn Bosnia, Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan qualifies him for the most challenging

service to constituents. Mark is a decorated veteran and caring physician, awarded the Air Medal for service under fire in aerial combat.

**2. ECONOMY:** "Whatever you tax, you get less of!" Mark will vote FOR House Resolution 25, to revoke the 16th Amendment and defund the IRS to stop abusive collections and end taxpayer harassment! Mark will vote to revoke Obamacare, which is just a failed insurance scheme, and craft a healthcare plan that really works for Marylanders. Folks are now working two 30-hour jobs after cutbacks to evade tax penalties!

**3. FOREIGN POLICY:** Mark will vote for viable military readiness of our Nation and to protect our interests abroad. This administration has emboldened our adversaries by pusillanimously allowing the former Soviets, led by former KGB chief and self-styled "New Tsar" Vlad Putin to roll unchallenged into the Crimea and now Eastern Ukraine. Our NATO borders, Alaska are next- the Russians have so stated on public record!

**4. IMMIGRATION:** Mark will not support "Blanket amnesty" for all illegals! Mark does support a case-by-case legal pathway to naturalization for tax-paying immigrant workers who make valuable contributions to our communities! Mark will vote to stop 'free rides' and enforce our border laws in the interests of national security! Mark does support legal paths to naturalization, including the military service pathway.

**5. ENVIRONMENT:** We must preserve our natural resources for our own use and enjoyment and for future generations. Mark supports initiatives to clean up the Bay and insure wildlife preservation for posterity, but taxing rain and chickens is not the way to pay for it! Mark will fight for Federal funding for the Chesapeake bay watershed program to support our fishing and farming industries.

**6. INEQUALITY:** Preserve, protect and defend our Constitutional rights to liberty and the right of every citizen, no matter how small, to life! Mark will vote for legislation that recognizes that life begins at conception by divine inspiration to protect our children of all ages, and to preserve our God-given, fundamental second Amendment right to defend our persons and property, guaranteed by the Constitution!

**7. TAX REFORM:** We must reform the IRS, or defund it and revoke the 16th Amendment! The IRS routinely violates citizens' Constitutional rights to due process; it levies penalties, garnishes wages and imposes harsh fees without any court order or legal review, as an 'administrative' process; taxpayers have no legal rights in defending themselves against this agency! We can raise revenue with a national sales tax.

**8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** ISIS is a clear and present danger which the current administration has failed to address. We need to pursue United States' interests overseas and aggressively confront and neutralize ISIS assets, materials, funding and curtail weapons. We must mount a multi-targeted campaign to destroy ISIL physical infrastructure, restrict weapons access, cut off banking assets and destroy ISIL logistics train.

**Steny H. Hoyer**  
**(DEM)**

**Campaign Website:** [hoyerforcongress.com](http://hoyerforcongress.com)

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** For over 30 years in Congress, I have been an effective leader who works in a bipartisan way to deliver results for my constituents. I continue to fight tirelessly for economic development, have helped create and save nearly 23,000 jobs, and am dedicated to ensuring all Marylanders have access to middle class opportunities.
- 2. ECONOMY:** I'm leading a jobs plan in Congress called Make It In America, which aims to spur the creation of well-paying jobs across the country and ensure that all Americans have the tools they need to get ahead in today's new economy. I support an increase in the minimum wage, access to affordable child care, and ensuring equal pay in the workplace - all of which would help American families.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY:** Two of the most important issues are the Iran nuclear deal and destroying ISIL. I've been a leader in calling for the most vigorous monitoring and enforcement regime possible - and for America to play a leading role in ensuring Iran abides by its commitments. In the effort to destroy ISIL, I am encouraging the Obama Administration to increase its efforts to demolish ISIL's energy resources.
- 4. IMMIGRATION:** I support comprehensive immigration reform that will provide a timely pathway to citizenship. Fixing our broken immigration system is not only good for our economy, but it's the right thing to do and is supported by the majority of Americans.
- 5. ENVIRONMENT:** We must take steps to address climate change. Climate change is a threat to our environment - including the Chesapeake Bay - public health, the economy, and national security. I will continue to support legislation to advance renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency, which will save families and businesses money, spur innovation and create well-paying jobs.
- 6. INEQUALITY:** I have cosponsored legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2020. I am also a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act which would end wage discrimination against women and promote higher wages to help more Americans secure a place in the middle class. I also support bipartisan efforts that will help fix our country's broken criminal justice system.
- 7. TAX REFORM:** I support comprehensive tax reform that simplifies the tax code, creates an environment for companies to bring jobs back to the U.S., and strengthens American competitiveness.
- 8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** I remain focused on protecting our military installations and federal facilities, as well as bringing the new, consolidated FBI headquarters to Prince George's County. I am dedicated to improving Maryland schools and keeping them among the best in the nation, as well as investing in our infrastructure and protecting our natural resources.

**Jason Summers**  
**(LBT)**

**Campaign Website:** [summersformaryland5th.com](http://summersformaryland5th.com)

**1. QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a parent. I have three children. The laws we pass today have repercussions for generations to come. I want my children to live a life where they still know freedom. For them, I will not pass any law or add any regulation that will reduce their freedom. I also want them to live in a world that is safe. I will not vote to send our country to war unnecessarily.

**2. ECONOMY:** Reducing the complexity and cost of starting a business will enable low and middle income citizens to become self-employed owners. This will reduce the effects of unemployment and low-income wage slavery. End "Crony Capitalism" fueled government spending, which takes tax dollars away from low and middle income citizens and gives it to the well-connected elite.

**3. FOREIGN POLICY:** The most pressing foreign policy issue we face is the perpetual and aimless war that we are engaged in the Middle East. This war has resulted in the deaths of thousands of US service members as well as an unknown number of innocent civilians abroad. We should immediately exit the Middle East. Afterwards, we should gradually close all other overseas military bases.

**4. IMMIGRATION:** Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. All individuals that do not pose a credible threat to security, health, or property should be allowed entry into the country. There should be no restrictions on their right to work or start a business. This also should apply to all currently undocumented residents.

**5. ENVIRONMENT:** Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

**6. INEQUALITY:** To reduce income inequality, eliminate government spending and regulations that disproportionately favor those with existing wealth. Remove regulations that make it difficult for individuals to go into business for themselves. To combat racial inequality, demilitarize the police, which disproportionately targets minorities. End prison sentences for victimless crimes.

**7. TAX REFORM:** Federal taxes should be the minimum required to maintain the essential functions of government. When practical, Federal income taxes should be replaced with user fees. As an example, the infrastructure needed to engage in financial regulation should be funded by transaction fees.

**8. OTHER PRIORITIES:** Education: Restore local control to education. End federally mandated testing and curriculum mandates. Government Transparency: Put the government's checkbook online. Each government transaction must cite as much detail as the IRS demands of citizens. Privacy: End government spying into the lives of US citizens. End Drug Prohibition: For all drugs, not just marijuana.

## **Appellate Court**

### **Judge in Court of Appeals (C5: Southern MD)**

**DUTIES:** The Court of Appeals is the highest court in the State (commonly called the Supreme Court in other states and at the federal level). It hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a process which gives the court discretion to decide which cases to hear. However, the Court of Appeals is mandated by law to hear cases involving the death penalty, legislative redistricting, removal of certain officers, and certifications of questions of law.

**SALARY:** \$176,433 annual base

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

**HOW ELECTED:** Members of the Court are initially appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Subsequently, they run for office on their records, unopposed. If voters reject a judge's retention in office or there is a tie vote, the office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge remains in office for a ten-year term. The Court is composed of seven judges, with one elected from each of seven judicial circuits.

### **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.*

**Clayton Greene Jr.**

*No responses received by deadline.*

### **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**

*No responses received by deadline.*

#### **Judge in Court of Special Appeals (C5: Southern MD)**

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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.*

**Timothy E. Meredith**

*No responses received by deadline.*

## St. Mary's County Offices

### St. Mary's County Board of Education

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

**TERM:** Four years.

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

### Questions

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

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?

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

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

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

**TERM LIMITS:** For or against? Please explain.

### Candidates for BoE At Large

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Cathy Allen**

**Campaign Website:** JustCathyAllen.com

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

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

**BUDGET:** We must keep watch on staffing. Recent funding shifts at the state level have placed additional pressures on counties to cover pension costs. Result: personnel costs increasing from 84% of the budget to nearly 92% of the budget. State and federal unfunded mandates have

significant impact. We must balance people and programs, always with priority on the classroom.

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

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

**TERM LIMITS:** I can see both sides of this argument and each have merit. Constant turnover contributes to the loss of experience leading to repeated mistakes. No change can lead to stagnation and an unwillingness to consider different ideas. I believe, and have shown, experience is important. I believe it should be up to the voters to decide whether someone deserves another term, not an arbitrary limit.

### **Chris Krush**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Candidates for BoE District 2**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

### **Jim Davis**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have extensive fiduciary, teaching, engineering and management experience within large educational and corporate entities. These experiences has given me the training and skills necessary to provide strong leadership and executive management and

oversight. As a college professor, I have developed an appreciation of student learning requires necessary to meet the challenges of the workplace.

**PRIORITIES:** As one of five board members it will important to build consensus and leadership with other members towards meeting priority needs of public schools. I would work hard to bolster student learning capabilities including electronic teaching aids, reduction of class size, supporting teacher pay and retirement funding and providing adequate budgeting for student supplies and equipment..

**BUDGET:** St. Mary's County Public Schools are among the finest schools within the state. To attain teaching excellence and high student achievement, the school board will need to make the necessary investments to maintain these standards. These investments, while costly, need to be balanced against the consideration of the tax payers. I would also look at measures to reduce capital spending.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** The Common Core State Standards Initiative adopted by numerous states, on first look, appears to have merit. The goal is to raise high quality student standards in math, sciences, art and literature. While these goals are noble, I believe local school standards are best initiated by local school administrators. I therefore support local control of course development not the federal government.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** We can train our students for careers in the construction trades, or manufacturing, but first we need to better understand the emerging markets for the 21st century. What are the growing industries that will require trained practitioners? We need to structure our course syllabi to meet the labor requirements of the new market place.

**TERM LIMITS:** I support term limits not to exceed 3 terms for all new school board members.

### **Justin Fiore**

**Campaign Website:** [democracy.com/justin4boe](http://democracy.com/justin4boe)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The last several years of my life's work can be split into two categories: volunteerism and policy. While majoring in public policy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, I started the basketball program at the Chesapeake Public Charter School, where I also taught electives. In my current job, I analyze our state's \$17.1 billion budget. I know today's students, policies, and our fiscal realities.

**PRIORITIES:** As with most governing entities, I believe the Board should be primarily focused on providing the skeleton of the system and making sure it works for every child. That is why my priorities are building early education, supporting our staff (including paraeducators), and aiding at-risk and special needs students. Also, we must lower the number of students who need remedial courses in college.

**BUDGET:** I would like to see the Board prioritize the 12 paraeducator positions we lost due to budget shortfalls during the recession -- we have more students and less help as a result. It's a great budget otherwise, and unless we to forgo cutting the grass around the schools, there really isn't much room to decrease the budget—not without lowering our educational capabilities or going back on our promises

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Reasonably. Standards and the tests that follow are important for several reasons: to hold government accountable, measure student and cohort performance, and provide an expectancy of quality for those who enter and exit the school system. On the

other hand, we cannot let it inundate our instructional time. We also must ensure that teachers have flexibility in how they teach standards.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** We already provide great training through the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center and have recognized the need for a different pathway. I think all of our students would benefit from courses surrounding financial literacy/competency, developing professional interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, and even a crash course in local government. We should be teaching people how to adult.

**TERM LIMITS:** Both cases have valid pros and cons. Put it on the ballot and let St. Mary's County voters decide.

### **Candidates for BoE District 4**

*Vote for no more than 1.*

#### **Mary M Washington**

**Campaign Website:** marywashington.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Served 20-years as full-time BOE member. Hired three superintendents. Worked with five different boards of Commissioners and 15 different BOE members. Served as BOE Chair and Vice Chair. Is always approachable, available, accessible and responsive. Kept students in forefront of all decision. Earned MABE Leadership Academy I&II. Served on various local committees and boards.

**PRIORITIES:** Increase student achievement and Decrease Dropout Rate. Maintain/improve the collaborative, open, honest, professional relationship with BOE members, superintendent, system employees, elected officials, students, parents, and community members to successfully get the job done. Continue to be accessible, available, approachable, and responsive. Continue to be a steadfast public servant. I work for YOU.

**BUDGET:** Increase: To fully fund our negotiated agreements with our employee groups, which is commensurate with the tr-county area so that we can recruit, hire, train, and maintain a high-quality and high-performing workforce. To enhance, maintain, and upgrade technology in the classrooms to achieve personalized and group instruction. Decrease: Any areas which after review are not effective and efficient.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** The Common Core State Standards determine the skills and knowledge a students should master for each grade level from K-12 and the skills they should demonstrate when they graduate from high school. Ensuring these standards are applied consistently and equitably, from K-12 will mean students will be college and career ready regardless of their zip code.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** The key is to prepare ALL students to be college and/or career ready whether they think they plan to go to college or not. Education is life-long. To be well prepared for any career, further education is required. Currently, the Forrest Center offers 24 career programs. JROTC at high schools. 4 Academies: Global & International Studies, STEM, Visual&Performing Arts and an Academy of Finance.

**TERM LIMITS:** Against. I have full faith and confidence in the intelligence of the voters of St. Mary's County. If they believe an elected official is not satisfactorily doing his or her job, then I

know they will vote that person out of office. Terms limits are determined at the polls by the voters. They can vote you in or they can vote you out. I trust the voters to determine term limits.

## **Maryland Ballot Questions**

### **Maryland Constitutional Amendment (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 FOR the amendment:**

- 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 the amendment:**

- 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.

## **County Ballot Questions**

### **St. Mary's County Question A**

#### **QUESTION A: Local Referendum pursuant to Article 11-F of the Maryland Constitution Code Home Rule**

Are you for or against St. Mary's County becoming a code county and being governed by the provisions of Article 11-F of the Maryland Constitution as proposed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County?

**FOR the adoption of Code Home Rule**

**OR**

**AGAINST the adoption of Code Home Rule**