



MARYLAND

2020 Voters' Guide

Contents

Judicial Offices	2
The Issues.....	2
Candidates.....	2
Washington County Board of Education.....	3
The Issues.....	3
Candidates.....	3
City of Hagerstown Council	9
The Issues.....	9
Candidates.....	9
City of Hagerstown - Mayor	15
The Issues.....	15
Candidates.....	16

Offices and Candidates are listed in Ballot Order. These abbreviations are used.

DEM = Democratic Party

REP = Republican Party

LBT = Libertarian Party

Grn = Green Party

Con = Constitution Party

Una = Unaffiliated Candidate

Judicial Offices

Washington County Circuit Court Judge

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

SALARY: \$174,433, effective July 1, 2021

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

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

The Issues

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

COURT NEEDS: What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's court system and how can these be addressed?

REPEAT OFFENDERS: What can the courts do to reduce recidivism?

DISCRIMINATION: What steps can the courts take to reduce the risk that bias will influence the outcome of legal proceedings?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

Andrew F. Wilkinson

QUALIFICATIONS: No response received by deadline.

COURT NEEDS: No response received by deadline.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: No response received by deadline.

DISCRIMINATION: No response received by deadline.

Washington County Board of Education

The Washington County Board of Education maintains a reasonably uniform system of public schools. Working with the Superintendent, the Board determines educational policies of the school system and establishes rules for the education system. The Board is composed of seven members elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Board members earn a salary of \$12,000 and the Board Chair earns a salary of \$12,500. Regular 7 p.m. meetings of the Board are held twice each month. Work sessions are held afternoons at the central office as needed. Several times during the school year, meetings are held in the afternoon at schools throughout the county. All meetings, except executive sessions, are announced in advance and open to the public. Four seats will be open in 2020. Website: <http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us>

The Issues

1. **Qualifications:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
2. **Budget Priorities:** How would you rank the priorities of education needs, including teacher retention, class size, and school buildings?
3. **Standards and Testing:** How should the national and state standards be used to ensure a quality education for each child in the county?
4. **College Alternatives:** What programs will you support to prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?
5. **School Safety:** How will you address school safety issues such as gangs, bullying, and substance abuse?
6. **Partnerships:** How will you promote partnerships with businesses and community organizations to improve the educational experience of our students?
7. **Priorities:** In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

Pieter Bickford

Nonpartisan

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

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1. **Qualifications:** I've been a member of the Board of Education for the past four years, which makes me uniquely qualified for the job. I'm also a parent of a graduate and the husband of an educator. As a journalist, I have covered education and politics throughout my professional career. As chair of the WCPS Finance Committee, I know how to manage a multi-million-dollar budget.
2. **Budget Priorities:** I would rank class size as the most important, followed by teacher retention, and school buildings. But all require funding. For the past 4 years despite making well thought out and coordinated asks, the county commissioners continue to vote to give us the minimum required by state law. The needs of our students are only growing. They must be a priority!
3. **Standards and Testing:** Being reliant on testing runs the risk of "teaching to the test" but can also encourage uniformity in our curriculum while being a useful tool for spotlighting areas of need. I have learned that an amazing staff and

administration KNOWS which schools need help. Testing for national standards frankly wastes money and resources that could be better spent on meeting our local needs.

4. **College Alternatives:** We have expanded vocational programs during my first term, and we have further to go. I would like to see a prep program for students who are considering careers in the military, as well as expanding opportunities for students who want to devote their lives to public service.

5. **School Safety:** Treat the immediate problem through the use of compassionate but firm staff who enforce strict anti-bullying and discipline policies, but also prevent the problem in the first place by teaching students how to work through their conflicts with words rather than weapons.

6. **Partnerships:** We are actively involved in several organizations, including On Track. We have apprenticeships with Bowman Trucking, Hub Labels, etc. I'm a firm believer that real world experience can be one of the best classrooms.

7. **Priorities:** Preserving our expanded pre-k, improving our virtual options, promoting smaller class sizes, recruiting experienced diverse teachers, improving relations with our collective bargaining associations, shoring up salaries for veteran teachers, and collaborating with social services and non-profits to better support struggling families.

William "Bill" Donahue

Nonpartisan

Campaign Website: <http://www.flagshiptrivia.com/billforboe/index.asp>

Campaign Facebook: <http://billdonahueforboe>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/billforboe

Campaign Email: billdonahue4boe@gmail.com

1. **Qualifications:** I have 31 years of teaching experience. I have taught in middle and high schools. I was also a science resource teacher, a technology integration specialist, a department chairperson, and an acting assistant principal. During these various opportunities, I have learned multiple aspects of education.

2. **Budget Priorities:** Budget is a huge responsibility of a school system. A properly funded and distributed budget can benefit student's education. Studies show that high teacher turn over can actually harm student achievement. Class size also affects student achievement. Both need to be high priorities. Finally, as our school building are aging and need to be maintained and replaced as necessary.

3. **Standards and Testing:** All schools must comply with state and national standards to ensure a quality education. This needs to be in tandem with hiring and retaining the highest quality teachers to teach those standards. All students need to be able to master the standards. However, that should not be the end point of instruction, it should be the beginning.

4. **College Alternatives:** College and Career Readiness is important for students. There are many alternatives to college. I have taught at one of those such alternative programs, Washington County Technical High School. That school provides some students with great opportunities that might not include college. There should be more opportunities for students.

5. **School Safety:** Schools need to be safe spaces for students to learn. Student's basic needs must be met before they can even learn. Policies need to be in place and supported from the top down so that classrooms are a safe space for learning.

6. **Partnerships:** Educational partnerships are essential. The ultimate goal should be a community all working together for students to provide the best education for the students of Washington County. By working with businesses and community organizations students will get the best education possible.

7. Priorities: My highest priority is to work with all educational personnel and the county commissioners to provide the best education possible for the students of Washington County Public Schools. We need to set policies and work with community members and businesses so that all schools in WCPS provide students with an education that will make them competitive with the global community.

**Benjamin Forrest
Nonpartisan**

1. Qualifications: I come from a long line of teachers here in Washington County. My mother, my grandmother, and my grandfather all were teachers, administrators, and supervisors here in Washington County, and I have been a substitute teacher for over three years, allowing me to work in schools and with students all across WCPS. I also have significant experience working in education policy across Maryland.

2. Budget Priorities: The highest priority of the Board of Education should be supporting teachers and Educational Support Personnel in providing students with the best education possible. Therefore increasing teacher and ESP pay to ensure we are recruiting and maintaining the highest class staff possible is among my highest priorities. We also have to keep class sizes down to give all students opportunities to succeed

3. Standards and Testing: It's important that WCPS should be meeting and exceeding both state and national standards. That being said, we should not be inundating our kids with test after test. We should trust our teachers in allowing them to teach their students the way they will best learn. Our teachers are trained to teach, and we should let them do so.

4. College Alternatives: College is not for every student. We should ensure all of our vocational, technical, skills, and certificate programs are serving as diverse a student population as WCPS has. We should work with community businesses and stakeholders to ensure that these programs, which prepare students with essential skills to enter the workforce, meet strategic and standing needs in our community.

5. School Safety: Ensuring the safety of our schools and our students is the most important job that the school system has. We should ensure that, to every extent possible, schools have an immediate and available School Resource Officer. We should also work with our local and state law enforcement partners to ensure we are employing policing and student safety best practices to educate our school safety actions.

6. Partnerships: I would be active and involved in recruiting and retaining business and community engagement and support. I would also encourage an increased level of engagement with local businesses and community organizations to increase the opportunities for students to be involved in these jobs, as well as the benefit that it supplements the workforce needs of these same businesses.

7. Priorities: I will make it a priority to build a stronger working relationship between the elected Board, the teachers, Educational Support Personnel, administrators, and community and parental stakeholders. I am committed to making sure everyone is able to be engaged, included, and valued as a stakeholder in our educational system and I am committed to being as accessible as possible to ensure this goal.

**Ladetra Robinson
Nonpartisan**

Campaign Facebook: <http://Ladetra Robinson for Washington County Board of Education>

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Campaign Phone: (240) 452-8243

1. Qualifications: I am the owner of Blossom School of Etiquette & mentoring program, working with students from WCPS helping them become college and/or career ready. I have 3 children graduates of WCPS that are now in college. I have been on several boards in the past working with students, teachers and the community. I feel this makes me qualified to do the same for students in our entire county.

2. Budget Priorities: I would rank teacher skills and retention as number 1 in our budget. The facilities and transportation are very important. We have to include safety of our children and school leadership and support staff as well. The main goal is what best serves our students to become successful.

3. Standards and Testing: The standard testing should be used to measure our student's achievements. They should be fair and objective measure of student's ability. WCPS teachers should be accountable in teaching and preparing so that our students are well prepared for these tests.

4. College Alternatives: I will support all programs that support our students for employment without going to higher learning. Washington County Technical School is one in our school system that does just that for our students. Internships from some of our businesses would also be a great support.

5. School Safety: School safety is a major issue in our schools. I believe cameras and law enforcement should be present in the schools. Teachers and staff should have additional training on bullying, substance abuse, gangs, other societal issues... Our students should be given awareness training.

6. Partnerships: I will promote all partnerships with WCPS from after school programs, student and community organizations as well businesses. This is very important for all our community to be a part of our student education.

7. Priorities: My priority for this office is to improve college and career readiness in all students.

Stan Stouffer

Nonpartisan

Campaign Facebook: <http://Stan Stouffer for School Board>

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Campaign Phone: (301) 991-5388

1. Qualifications: My biggest experience is my current three years as vice-president of the WCBOE. Before that I served as a WCPS social studies educator for 42 years, coach for 27 years, and athletic director for 5 years. As a WCTA board of directors member and representative over 30 years, I had experience in teacher negotiations and grievance procedures. I also helped author the MD Government HSA.

2. Budget Priorities: Funding is the top educational priority. Absent proper funding it is difficult to recruit and retain effective teachers, lower class size (requires more teachers), build and maintain buildings, offer relevant and diverse curriculum and programs for all students, provide services for special education, student mental health problems, and ELL and afford dynamic 21st century technology for education.

3. Standards and Testing: National and state standards constantly change. Standardized testing programs constantly change. MD is discontinuing PARCC testing in favor of a program called MCAP. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND has given way

to EVERY STUDENT SUCCEED ACT. COMMON CORE has proved controversial. Students should be exposed to a curricula that promotes higher order thinking skills and multiple 21st century literacies.

4. College Alternatives: I strongly support the continuation and expansion of 21st century skill courses and traditional trade and career courses at our technical high school as well as continuing career -related courses at our other high schools. MD and particularly our county have placed a high importance on career and technology education. I also believe even non-college students need training beyond high school.

5. School Safety: I have requested an update about gangs and their influence in WCPS so we can determine what initiatives should be considered to prevent gang violence in WCPS. Bullying education MUST start at home. WCPS should hold workshops to educate parents about their importance in preventing bullying and strongly enforce its bullying policy. Parents must be enlisted to assist in preventing substance abuse.

6. Partnerships: There are many ways to do this: asking for volunteers and donating resources, internships with local businesses and groups, promoting dual enrollment courses, promoting early college and middle college programs, seeking places for students to earn student service learning hours, and developing public/private partnerships for promoting literacy and improving facilities.

7. Priorities: To promote the highest levels of literacy possible for our students so they can and will be able to compete in a 21st century global economy. To strive for equality and equity in all educational activities for all students. To continue working with my fellow board members and Superintendent Michael to achieve the continuing goals we began to accomplish for our students and community.

Melissa Williams

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://Melissa.Williams>, candidate for Washington County Board of Education 2020

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Campaign Phone: (301) 824-5122

1. Qualifications: I am completing my second term as a BOE member and have served as president since 2016. Prior to BOE service I was a WCPS educator for 35 years. I have participated in board member training and conferences offered by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE). I currently serve on several MABE standing committees, the Ad Hoc Equity Committee, and serve on the MABE Board of Directors.

2. Budget Priorities: My priorities are to provide resources and services to support the needs of each WCPS student, to fairly compensate our teachers, administrators, and educational support personnel, and to maintain and create educationally appropriate, safe, and secure facilities.

3. Standards and Testing: Standards are the basis of curriculum, and curriculum drives instruction. Testing is one tool that helps us measure our progress and success, and it aids us in modifying instruction and decision making.

4. College Alternatives: I will continue to support a strong CTE (career technology education) program, our technical high school, and internships and apprenticeships in the trades. I support having multiple pathways to success in order to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

5. School Safety: As we renovate schools and add resource officers to address safety threats from outside our buildings we must also address safety concerns

arising within our buildings. Bullying and behavioral issues make additional guidance counselors, behavior specialists, and social workers essential. School safety concerns are addressed through policymaking, budgeting, and goal setting with the superintendent

6. Partnerships: Currently, the BOE embraces opportunities to support partnerships within the limits of its budget. The BOE partners with foundations, school organizations, and community groups on many projects and programs to enhance facilities and student programs. I will continue to encourage and support public-private partnerships.

7. Priorities: I am committed to providing each student in WCPS with equitable access to the educational rigor, resources, and support needed to maximize his/her academic achievement and social/emotional well-being, to providing safe and secure school environments that are conducive to learning, and to working collaboratively with county and state leaders to obtain the funding these priorities require.

April A. Zentmeyer

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/AprilZentmeyer

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1. Qualifications: I attended WCPS and earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy from UMD, College Park. My work experience includes communications, PR, nursing, and President/CEO of two companies, as well as, teacher/administrator for three decades—including leadership positions at North High, Williamsport, and Boonsboro. I developed vision and mission statements along with strategies to achieve goals.

2. Budget Priorities: Creating a safe school environment where curiosity and the love of learning are fostered by quality teachers and an engaged student body is the priority. When we design schools, bigger is not always better. Smaller classes, building community, promoting student achievement, and teacher retention can achieve this goal.

3. Standards and Testing: Although testing is valuable, we need to be careful how it is used to make critical decisions affecting schools, teachers, and students. Testing assures that students are achieving state standards, provides direction for teaching, indicates where attention is needed, and rewards a job well done. Feedback from testing is valuable. Tests are tools--great teachers teach beyond the context of tests.

4. College Alternatives: Technical High School offers a quality education that serves a high demand area in our community. We should expand technical high school opportunities. Partnerships that provide internships, shadowing programs, and vocational opportunities are needed for students and the business community.

5. School Safety: Maintaining discipline and standards is necessary for a safe school environment conducive to learning. However, troubled kids, a bully, gang member, or substance abuser, is still a kid with developmental and educational needs. Antietam Academy's Trauma Responsive Approach is a success. Adopting Restorative Practices-addressing the child's needs first-can benefit troubled kids if well implemented.

6. Partnerships: Washington County is an incredibly generous community boasting successful alumni who give time, talent, and financial support to our schools. Capitalizing on this network, and promoting partnerships can prepare students for the world of work. We can expand community outreach to enhance and grow

internships, shadowing programs, and vocational opportunities.

7. Priorities: My passion is teaching kids to love learning and supporting the people who make this happen. I will advocate for all students: special education, reluctant and at-risk learners, advanced learners and the majority of students who do not fit into these groups who also need an advocate. We need to develop policies, provide resources, and look for ways to empower and enhance the role of teacher.

City of Hagerstown Council

DUTIES: Legislative powers of the City are vested in a five-member Council. The Council has the power to pass ordinances to assure the good government of the city. Meetings are held on Tuesdays. The first, second and third Tuesday are typically Work Sessions, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The Regular Session is held on the fourth Tuesday, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings, except Executive Sessions, are open to the public.

QUALIFICATIONS: Members of the City Council must be at least 21 years old, have resided in the corporate limits of the City for at least one year and be a qualified voter in City elections. Council members must continue to reside in the City during their term.

SALARY: \$8,000 annually

TERM: 4 years

HOW ELECTED: Elected at-large.

The Issues

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
- 2. PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for the of the City of Hagerstown?
- 3. COOPERATION:** What actions will you personally take to foster more cooperation between the City and County government?
- 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Much of the plan for revitalization of downtown has been focused on the recommendations of the study done by Urban Partners. What are your ideas for revitalization?
- 5. SAFETY:** There is a perception that downtown is not safe. What is your downtown safety program going to look like?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 5.

Kristin B. Aleshire

Nonpartisan

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Campaign Phone: (301) 992-1861

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I believe that my personal and professional tenure in local government provides me with both the historical and daily experience to be readily prepared for all areas of City government. Having a working knowledge of the responsibilities of Council and applying my skillset as a manager within municipal government is key to achieving citizen expectation for our immediate and long term goals.

2. PRIORITIES: Every issue which comes before Council is a priority and thus the priority of Council is to find tangible resolution to each issue which arises. Being

informed and prepared and able to work positively with all parties is paramount to that task. The City has its challenges and allowing one objective to fail creates a domino of negative impact on all other objectives set by each administration.

3. COOPERATION: There is an aged misconception that the City and County do not cooperate, which appears only tied to this single municipality. Having now served as both Council member and Commissioner, I would only note, we achieve the greatest success together by maintaining political focus on the big picture while our collective staffs work hand in hand applying detail to the paint.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: This answer is well beyond the space provided to respond. That said, we need to continue with the A&E theme, the first 3rd grant program, and addressing blighted properties. As Urban Partners noted, measures should be affordable and practical. Most importantly the City needs greater buy in from its public and private partners that at times appear more invested in the City than vested in the City.

5. SAFETY: I have said for some time, downtown appears more empty than it does unsafe. Downtown requires public-private investment to breathe new life into it and restore an atmosphere of positive daily activity. I believe the safety issues are more prevalent in pockets of our neighborhoods which struggle with a broad range of socio-economic issues. These are the areas which require our police attention.

Bob Bruchey

Nonpartisan

Campaign Email: rbruchey@msn.com

1. QUALIFICATIONS: MY extensive working knowledge of all aspects of City Government, all departments. My prior years as Mayor in some of the worst economic times have made me a budget hawk, protecting the people's money. I bring common sense and fiscal responsibility to the table. I have extensive connections and relationships in Annapolis and with our local government and business community.

2. PRIORITIES: Safety and Economic Growth. Continue to enhance public safety to ensure recruitment and retainment of qualified public safety personnel is achieved. Continue the economic growth we have experienced in the past 3 years. We've had great success in promoting and assisting small business with nearly \$3MM in grants that have made it possible to grow small business all over Hagerstown.

3. COOPERATION: I have a great personal working relationship with our County Commissioners. The facts trump the fake perception; Partnering on infrastructure improvements for economic development and job creation, the bridge at Professional Court, the reconstruction of Wesel Blvd. for North Point that brings \$139MM in investment and 1500 jobs. Partners on DBHM, Md. Theater, BISFA, USMH the list goes on.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The UPP was only a rehash of older plans over the past 20 years. I believe that we continue to invest in our small businesses as noted above. Economic Catalyst is needed to put 100's of 1,000's of feet on the street. We have come a long way, but we won't change the economic makeup of the core until we change the socioeconomic makeup. People living and playing in the core with expendable income.

5. SAFETY: We can no longer accept panhandling, drugged and drunk passed out people hanging and laying on our downtown sidewalks, benches, etc. We must focus on quality of life, common sense policing that makes everyone feel safe. Perception or reality, we need to focus on cleanliness and safety. More good feet

on the street equals less negative perception. That's why an economic catalyst is paramount.

Tiara Burnett

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://Tiara Burnett for City Council>

Campaign Email: tiaraforcc@gmail.com

1. QUALIFICATIONS: As a lifelong member of the community, I value the opportunity to Serve. I am active in the community, where I have served on the board for the Robert W. Johnson Community Center and currently act as Secretary for the local nonprofit Beyond the Arc Foundation, where I schedule the entertainment and vendor service for our Ruthann V. Monroe Summer Basketball League.

2. PRIORITIES: I would like to implement a mentorship program for our youth, which will lessen their vulnerability to joining a gang and becoming involved in criminal activity. I will hold Real Estate developers, owners, and Property Managers accountable to lessen the blight of abandoned buildings in our community.

3. COOPERATION: In my first 100 days, I will have met with each County Commissioner to foster and enhance a collaborative approach to bridge the two bodies of public service. This will allow a working partnership to open the lines of communication and relationship.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: My revitalization ideas include working with entrepreneurs, businesses, and the arts to put new life into the core of the city. By encouraging growth and opportunity, we want people to stay in the downtown area after 5 o'clock. We want the downtown area to be an inviting space.

5. SAFETY: I believe a proactive approach is better than reactive. Inclusion and community are key factors for developing a safety program. There needs to be a police department that represents diversity and willingness to engage in discussions of community partnership.

Brooke Grossman

Nonpartisan

Campaign Facebook: <http://Grossman-for-Hagerstown>

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Campaign Phone: (240) 313-5797

1. QUALIFICATIONS: First and foremost I am a resident of Hagerstown, not just within City Limits but of the City core. I have lived in my home for the last 6 years and have witnessed the positive progress that has been made in the community. I feel that this gives me a unique perspective on what additional efforts need to be made to propel Hagerstown forward.

2. PRIORITIES: 1) Crafting a community and economic development plan that is inclusive of all city residents.. 2) Developing career and education pathways for Hagerstown residents that provide them with the skills necessary to earn a living wage. Creating a pathway to economic mobility for city residents.

3. COOPERATION: I personally will be present at County Commissioners meetings and invite them to participate in City Council meetings and planning events to encourage a spirit of collaboration between the two agencies.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Efforts to revitalize Hagerstown must include all of it's residents including low/moderate income households, we need to invite

residents to share their ideas/goals for economic development. What types of businesses would they like to see in the community, what events/opportunities would be interesting to them.

5. SAFETY: First we need to educate to community about safety issues in the downtown area, this can be accomplished through community conversations. Additionally, I would invite concerned citizens to become active in groups that are working to address community concerns, like the Homeless Coalition. Finally, I would work to create a street team increasing foot traffic in the City Center.

Austin Heffernan

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/AustinHeffernan.HGR/>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/aheffernan_hgr

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Campaign Phone: (240) 310-9617

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council in January 2018, so I've had two years of direct experience fulfilling the duties of the office. My continued goal is to contribute my education and business experience to the city to improve our ability to attract businesses and investors that will provide good jobs, and the tax revenues needed to make lasting change and improvements.

2. PRIORITIES: I have two immediate priorities: **PUBLIC SAFETY** - We need to reduce crime, illegal firearm activity and illegal drug activity. Citizens are fed up with the petty crimes, thefts, vandalized cars, break-ins, and hearing gunshots at all hours. **PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT** - We need investment in new businesses, new jobs, and new career opportunities with educational pathways to support career development.

3. COOPERATION: I have a good working relationship with each of the County Commissioners and key County employees, and will continue to identify opportunities to work with County government on projects of mutual benefit, but I will also focus on making sure City taxpayers, who also pay County Tax, are not penalized by an inadequate tax differential when contributing to the costs of shared services with the County

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: We need to continue work to make our City open, welcome and helpful to developers and businesses that want to renovate and establish a business presence here. We have a reputation of not being an easy, or helpful place to do business. It's improving, but we have a ways to go to eliminate the reputation. We need to focus on being more helpful in assisting downtown investors to be successful.

5. SAFETY: There are physical things that must be improved immediately, such as the lighting on our streets. Police salaries need to be made competitive to increase the size of the force; we need more foot patrols and need to restore bike patrols to increase police presence in the public eye. We also must revise outdated ordinances and penalties regarding illegal drug and firearm possession and trafficking.

Tekesha A. Martinez

Nonpartisan

1. QUALIFICATIONS: No response received by deadline.

2. PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

- 3. COOPERATION:** No response received by deadline.
- 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No response received by deadline.
- 5. SAFETY:** No response received by deadline.

Shelley McIntire

Nonpartisan

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1. QUALIFICATIONS: I have over 2 years of experience as a City councilwoman.

This time of service has made me familiar with the issues in our City & I understand, and know how to manage, the obstacles that can get in our way. As a small business owner, I am a strong strategic planner & have experience managing budgets, thinking creatively & I know the importance of working together to achieve maximum success.

2. PRIORITIES: My priority remains our community's social issues & finding realistic solutions to address them. I will continue to collaborate with multiple agencies & community-based organizations to improve neighborhood safety, reduce crime & provide more opportunities for our youth. A community that is socially healthy attracts new business & provides a fertile environment for our existing businesses to grow.

3. COOPERATION: I will encourage the ongoing "Two-by-Two" conversations that include two County Commissioners and two City Councilmembers where we can discuss the issues that our City and County face and look for solutions together. I will look for ways to pool our resources so that we may provide better quality, more effective services.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: We should continue to incentivize businesses to open & stay downtown. I will use best-practice approaches - successful in similar cities facing similar issues - to make our city an attractive place to locate. I will work to remove barriers when conducting business within the city & offer evidence-based enforcement & policy recommendations that would lessen crime & improve the image of downtown.

5. SAFETY: Law enforcement alone cannot solve our safety concerns. I will support the implementation of proven strategies to identify key areas of violence in Hagerstown and encourage a community-wide effort that will involve, not only suppression of violence, but also measures of prevention and intervention.

Penny May Nigh

Nonpartisan

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

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Campaign Phone: (301) 790-3839

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I feel my record holding a seat on the City Council from the past speaks for itself (three terms previously). I willingly listen to the needs of our citizens and work to address issues as they arise to the best of my ability.

2. PRIORITIES: Priorities for me would be continuing to clean up our proud city; as well as address the climbing crime rate occurring on our streets.

3. COOPERATION: I have always tried to keep an open line of communication between our City officials and Washington County officials. I have always kept Hagerstown's interests at heart. We need to remember that Hagerstown does pay Washington County and certainly deserves a voice.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: First we need to stop looking to consultants that continually offer the same ideas for our city. Hagerstown has so much potential and much to offer already. We should "look outside the box" to new developers for ideas using the buildings and infrastructure already in place.

5. SAFETY: We have always had programs in place for our downtown; programs such as the like the Downtown Squad. We must bring more police officers to our city and make every attempt to keep them employed here. I would continue to work with State and County Police, asking them for cooperation and assistance with vehicular traffic and drug confiscations.

Peter E. Perini Sr.

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://peterperiniforcitycouncil/>

Campaign Email: peter@peterperini.org

1. QUALIFICATIONS: My professional background includes my previous position as President & CEO of a regional company with over 1,000 employees. I know how to create jobs. I had worked in the construction industry for many years managing multi-million dollar projects. I know economic development. I have worked with minority business enterprise (MBE) firms. I know how to diversify.

2. PRIORITIES: My top priority is to bring jobs into the City. New jobs in the City will support stores, restaurants and other businesses and will help people find jobs with better incomes. We must continue the fight against the opioid crisis by supporting Emily Keller's 'Washington Goes Purple'. Another priority is to improve housing opportunities in the City by working with landlords and property owners.

3. COOPERATION: I agree that the County should cooperate more fully with the City of Hagerstown. I will use data to show the disparity disadvantage to City taxpayers and to support county initiatives to improve downtown. The County needs to find a sustainable public safety plan for fire and rescue services that currently draw heavily on the City-funded fire department for services outside of the City.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: My top priority is to bring employers into the City. We need to find a better parking plan that supports employees of businesses in the City. We need to take action to remove blight from the entire City. One bad property in a neighborhood negatively impacts the value of all of the surrounding properties and it creates a breeding ground for crime.

5. SAFETY: Downtown IS safe. We have an excellent police department lead by a strong, yet caring Chief of Police. The perception of "not safe" is not from a high amount of crime but rather from gatherings of idle people with nothing to do. So let's find what idle people can do for the betterment of our City. I support the Chief of Police and his good ideas to change the perception of our downtown.

Brenda J. Thiam

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://Brenda J. Thiam for Hagerstown City Council>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/bjthiam

Campaign Instagram: Instagram: Dr Thiam

Campaign Email: info@doctorbrenda4citycouncil.com

Campaign Phone: (240) 310-9543

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Doctor of Special Education, I've had decades of experience using critical thinking, developing a keen attention to detail, and implementing professionally developed listening skills. As a member of the Hagerstown City Council, I will bring a leadership style that is focused on data and results driven action.
- 2. PRIORITIES:** A Prosperous Hagerstown For Our Children's Future A Professional Approach To Public Safety A Proactive Approach To The Opioid Crisis A Productive Approach To Our Economic Development
- 3. COOPERATION:** Hagerstown is the largest municipality in Washington County. As such, it's essential that Hagerstown assist the County Government in showcasing the cooperative spirit between Hagerstown and the Washington County Government. I will work diligently to highlight initiatives that enhance the standard of living offered to the residents of Hagerstown and other municipalities.
- 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Hagerstown leadership passed a comprehensive plan for the city in 2018. The next group of elected city leadership must engage in updated conversations with local businesses, local nonprofits, and local residential stakeholders to discuss implementing the action items of the plan. It is essential to ensure that everyone is on the same page in carrying out the vision of Hagerstown.
- 5. SAFETY:** Downtown needs to be part of an invigorated community policing effort. We need to create an opportunity for our citizens to engage with law enforcement in a positive way. A Downtown Advisory Council (DAC) would bring all downtown stakeholders together. This would allow business owners, residents and law enforcement to identify and recommend positive changes to enhance the image of downtown.

City of Hagerstown - Mayor

DUTIES: The Mayor is the chief elected executive officer of the City and is charged with seeing that the Ordinances of the City, the policies and resolutions of the City Council and the provisions of the City Charter are faithfully executed. The Mayor annually reports on the condition of municipal affairs and makes recommendations for the public good and welfare of the City to the Council.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Mayor must be at least 25 years old, have resided in the corporate limits of the City for at least one year and be a qualified voter in City elections. The Mayor must continue to reside in the City during her or his term.

SALARY: \$28,000 annually

TERM: 4 years

HOW ELECTED: Elected citywide.

The Issues

- 1. QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
- 2. PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for the of the City of Hagerstown?
- 3. COOPERATION:** What actions will you personally take to foster more cooperation between the City and County government?
- 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Much of the plan for revitalization of downtown has been focused on the recommendations of the study done by Urban Partners. What are your ideas for revitalization?

5. SAFETY: There is a perception that downtown is not safe. What is your downtown safety program going to look like?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

Michael E. Barnes

Nonpartisan

Campaign Website: <http://Votebarnes2020.com>

Campaign Facebook: <http://Michael E Barnes for Mayor>

Campaign Email: Mike1967ap@aol.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 730-7885

1. QUALIFICATIONS: My position in the Washington County Free Clinic has prepared me for leadership in public office. Much of my life has been dedicated to public service through various local community service organizations. I have also built a successful Insurance Contracting business over the last 20 years right here in Hagerstown.

2. PRIORITIES: My priorities are safer streets, more economic growth and better civic engagement. Hagerstown has incredible potential and with brave and wise leadership, Hagerstown will meet that potential. There are so many issues to address and precious little time to do it all. I am confident, however, in the determination of the Hagerstown people's will to conquer the challenges on our way.

3. COOPERATION: Working with a unified council is necessary for a government to get things done in Hagerstown. I plan on working closely with the council to achieve the many great things we have planned for Hagerstown. Hagerstown has a long history of shared governance between the mayor and city council and I fully intend to work with the council, as our charter dictates.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The city needs to embrace calendar enhanced economic time frame beyond the typical holiday festivities. A Christmas Market in the city park adjacent to the Hager House is anatural location to inaugurate a traditional German Christmas market that puts the holiday spotlight on Hagerstown small business.

5. SAFETY: We need to end the drug and human trafficking of girls in Hagerstown and that starts with a fully staffed police department with at least 112 officers. We also will be propsoing a new Hagerstown VICE Department. More information on my website: www.votebarnes2020.com

Emily N. Keller

Nonpartisan

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

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

Campaign Instagram: @emilykellerforhagerstown

Campaign Email: emily@emilykellerforhagerstown.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 991-6773

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I have spent the last 4 years as a Councilwoman being present in the community, meeting with our residents & business owners to hear & address their concerns. I have a proven track record of getting things done- supporting our public safety officials, working tirelessly to combat the Opioid epidemic & working with the business community to encourage and enhance development & career opportunities.

2. PRIORITIES: 1: Ensuring the safety of our city by supporting initiatives to

combat crime & improve our quality of life 2- Fight the Opioid Crisis with access to treatment, youth prevention education & supporting the statewide plan to reduce ODs/promote recovery 3- Support locally owned businesses & development that will provide quality jobs and career opportunity 4- Make Hagerstown safe, vibrant, & inclusive

3. COOPERATION: I've held 2x2 meetings with 2 Councilmembers and 2 Commissioners for the first time in over 10 years. I will continue to hold these meetings. I have personal relationships with the commissioners and will use these relationships I've made to have open, transparent and tough conversations for the greater good of Hagerstown, as seen by my mission for a fair & equal tax set off for our Citizens.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: I will continue to focus on creating an environment in the City that is business friendly & provides world class service for developers. By providing incentives to encourage development, we are seeing many projects come to fruition. It is time to start our next big project such as an indoor sports complex for our youth or amphitheater. A combination of large and small projects enhance our city.

5. SAFETY: Aside from the need of a strong police presence that we are seeing with a staffed PD, I will focus on increasing lighting, filling vacant store fronts & increasing foot traffic downtown. "Natural surveillance" happens when a place is crowded. I am implementing an aggressive "shop local" type campaign, focusing on all the reasons to come downtown. More people+More Lights+More Police= Safe Community