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.

All candidates were asked to provide biographical information and to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for the same office were asked identical questions. Responses from candidates who will appear on the ballot are printed exactly as submitted to the LWV. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. Presidential candidates’ responses were limited to 750 characters. All other candidates’ responses were limited to 400 characters and any additional material was cut off at that point. If a candidate did not respond by the print deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

Additional information on the candidates is available at www.VOTE411.org, which has any updates received after the deadline. Candidate websites provide additional biographical and policy information. If the candidate submitted a campaign website, it is listed under her/his name.

The League assumes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

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Election Information

Three Ways to Vote

1. Vote Safe, Vote by Mail
Because of the risk of transmitting COVID-19 wherever large numbers of people are gathered, voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail. Vote in person only if you cannot vote by mail.

Ballots will be mailed to voters on the active voter registration list and will be accompanied by an envelope with prepaid postage for returning the ballot. **Be sure to sign the oath on the envelope, or your vote will not be counted.**

Voters will receive a Republican or Democratic ballot if they are affiliated with one of those parties. See the information on the next page about “closed-primary” elections. If you do not receive a ballot and believe you are eligible to vote in this election, please contact the Allegany County Board of Elections at **301-777-2526** as soon as possible.

**Ballots must be postmarked or returned to a secure drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day, June 2.** The State Board of Elections website includes a form to check that your ballot was received. Drop boxes will be available at the following location from May 21 through June 2.

Vote Center:
Allegany County Office Complex
701 Kelly Road, Room 100
Cumberland, MD 21502

**Protect your ballot -** Do not give your ballot to anyone who offers to collect ballots. Put it directly in the U.S. Mail or in a Board of Elections drop box.

2. Limited In-Person Voting on Election Day
To ensure that all voters have an opportunity to vote, in-person voting will be available at the Vote Center listed above from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on June 2.

Voter registration will be available, as will marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and/or marking a paper ballot. Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail and voters who cannot mail the ballot they received should also go to the Vote Center.

3. Absentee Voting
If you asked for an absentee ballot for this election, you may have received it already. If you have, please follow the instructions you received. Vote your ballot, **sign and date the oath**, and place both the ballot and the oath in an envelope. Be sure the envelope is addressed correctly and includes your ballot number.

If you would prefer to receive your ballot electronically, please call or email your local board of elections. When your ballot is ready, you will receive an email with a link to your ballot. You must print your ballot and the sign the oath. If you do not see an email from the State Board of Elections, check your spam folder.
“Closed-Primary” Elections

Maryland is a “closed-primary state”. Only the Republican and Democratic parties will be choosing their candidates in the upcoming election. Other political parties will choose their candidates by other methods.

What does a “closed-primary” mean for voters? In partisan races, voters registered as Republicans may vote only for Republican candidates and voters registered as Democrats may vote only for Democratic candidates. All registered voters may vote in non-partisan races such as Board of Education. If there are no non-partisan races on the ballot in a given county, independent and third party voters will not vote until the general election in November.

Resources for Voters

To review voter registration record, request replacement voter notification card, identify voting district, view sample ballot, learn the status of absentee or mail-in ballot, or receive other assistance from the State Board of Elections:
voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch or call 1-800-222-8683

To register as a new voter or update name, address or party affiliation (by May 27):
voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration

To request absentee ballot delivery by mail (by May 26) or by download (by May 29):
elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html

For information about access for voters with disabilities:
elections.maryland.gov/voting/accessibility.html

For candidate photos and updates, personalized ballots, candidate forum dates and other election information from the League of Women Voters: VOTE411.org

Hear rumors about the election?
Visit – http://www.elections.state.md.us/press_room/rumor_control.html

Offices and Candidates are listed on the following pages in ballot order. Website and social media sites are those provided by the candidates to the Maryland State Board of Elections unless updated by the candidate for this Voters’ Guide.
U.S. President

**DUTIES:** The President is the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. 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.

**TERM:** Four years. Limit of two terms.

**BASE SALARY:** $400,000 per year.

**Criteria for Participation in VOTE411.org:** All presidential candidates who will appear on Maryland’s ballot are listed below. The League of Women Voters of the United States, through the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), established criteria to determine which candidates to invite to respond to questions for the Voters’ Guide.

Candidates qualified for invitations from LWVEF to provide responses to specific questions if they met the following criteria:
- The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President.
- The candidate must have met 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 Federal Election Commission’s website.

LWVEF is required to have at least two candidates for President from the same party meet the above criteria before they are invited to answer the League’s questions and to have their responses printed in a voters’ guide.

**Questions**

**ELECTIONS AND VOTING:** What policies do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our country?

**COMMON GROUND:** Please explain where you see opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on the very serious issues facing our country.

**IMMIGRATION:** What, if any, steps will you take to reform current immigration policies?

**GUN VIOLENCE:** Please explain the policies, if any, you support to address gun violence in America.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** What, if any, actions would you work towards in your first 100 days to address the threats facing the US due to climate change?
Republican Candidates
Republicans may vote for 1

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVED) requires that at least two candidates for President from the same party meet the above criteria before launching a Voters’ Guide covering that party. At this time, only one candidate running for the Republican Party’s nomination for President has met the LWVEF criteria listed above. Therefore, no Republican presidential candidates have yet been invited to participate. As soon as any two Republican candidates meet the criteria or the party’s national nominating convention occurs, LWVEF will invite the qualified candidate(s).

Both the Republican candidates for U.S. President listed below appear on the Maryland ballot.

The following candidate met the LWVEF criteria for participation in VOTE411, but see the full description of the invitation process above.

**Donald. J. Trump**

The following candidate did not meet the LWVEF criteria and has withdrawn or suspended his campaign.

**Bill Weld**

Democratic Candidates
Democrats may vote for 1

All of the Democratic candidates for U. S. President listed below and on the following page appear on the Maryland primary ballot.

The following candidate met the LWVEF criteria for participation in VOTE411 and provided responses to the League’s questions. These can be found at VOTE411.org. LWVEF guidelines do not allow printing responses from just one presidential candidate.

**Joe Biden**

The following candidates met the LWVEF criteria for participation in VOTE411 and provided responses to the League’s questions. These can be found at VOTE411.org. They have withdrawn or suspended their campaigns.

**Cory Booker**

**Pete Buttigieg**

**Tulsi Gabbard**

**Amy Klobuchar**

**Bernie Sanders**
Elizabeth Warren

Andrew Yang

The following candidates did not meet the LWVEF criteria and were not asked to provide responses to the League’s questions. They have withdrawn or suspended their campaigns.

Michael Bennet

Michael Bloomberg

Julian Castro

Deval Patrick

Tom Steyer

Marianne Williamson

U.S. Representative, District 6

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 can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

TERM: Two years

BASE SALARY: $174,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2010 Census.

Website: www.house.gov

Video of candidate forum: https://livestream.com/accounts/12173556/events/8407299

Questions

GOALS: Why are you running for this office?

IMMIGRATION: What, if anything, would you change regarding immigration policy?

HEALTH CARE: Would you vote to continue the Affordable Care Act as it is, expand it, or eliminate it? Please explain.
ENVIRONMENT: What should be the federal government’s role in addressing national and global environmental concerns?

GUN SAFETY: What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?

ECONOMY: How would you address the growing income gap in our society?

DISCRIMINATION: What initiatives would you propose to address bias based on race, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, or disability?

STUDENT LOANS: What actions would you support to reduce burdensome student loan debt?

**Republican Candidates**

Republicans may vote for 1.

**Kevin T. Caldwell**

Campaign Website: [http://www.caldwellforamerica.com](http://www.caldwellforamerica.com)
Campaign Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/CaldwellforAmerica](http://www.facebook.com/CaldwellforAmerica)
Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/Caldwell4MD6CD
Campaign Phone: (301) 834-2799

**GOALS:** To offer my fellow citizens (my country) the opportunity to have a Rep who will perform their most basic duty, protecting you from those who would use your Government against you. To defend the ideas & principles that my father (Vietnam), my wife & I (Post 9/11) have served & sworn to protect. I am running because I understand that my freedom is directly related to yours.

**IMMIGRATION:** Secure our borders. End sanctuary cities for violent criminals. Protect Americans by ensuring those who come into our country mean its citizens no harm. After securing the nation, we must focus on dealing with those who have been in the country already.

**HEALTH CARE:** I would end the Affordable Care Act. We need to move this sector of our economy back to market-based solutions. We must allow the consumers to control the $3.6 trillion spent on health care, not Gov. officials & special interest. Like all resources, either we decide through our choices their cost & allocation or others decide for us.

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

**GUN SAFETY:** No response received by deadline.

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

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

**STUDENT LOANS:** No response received by deadline.

**Chris P. Meyyur**

Campaign Website: [http://www.meyyur2020.com](http://www.meyyur2020.com)
Campaign Facebook: [http://facebook.com/chrismeyyur](http://facebook.com/chrismeyyur)
Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/chrismeyyur

**GOALS:** I care about our future as a nation. I run to act on the issues that will help the middle class and to end hostilities in Asia and bring troops home. Invest eight trillion dollars
on domestic priorities. My priorities are bringing the cost of college education down and wipe out portions of student debt and bring tax burden of families making less than 300K. Strengthen public education.

**IMMIGRATION:** No change is needed.

**HEALTH CARE:** ACA needs to be revised and improved. My goal is bringing a third medical school to Maryland. I envision a large medical university and VA hospital closer to Fort Detrick and National Cancer Institute in Frederick. I will strive to remove various barriers to improve the healthcare delivery.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Clean air, land and water is essential for us and future generations to come. I will support following actions. Chesapeake Bay Regional Authority will be established to mitigate and clean our land and waterways and restore the ecosystems with 5 billion dollar investment over a decade.

**GUN SAFETY:** I am very sensitive on this topic as my son's friend and his sister and mother were murdered by his father. Second Amendment Rights must be protected and also we need to come together with an understanding and consensus on measures to prevent mass killings.

**ECONOMY:** The worst case of income gap is homeless working people and homeless veterans. I will introduce variable minimum wage based on data points with the e-verify process.

**DISCRIMINATION:** There are 6 billion people live in the world and they are different in so many ways. We could solve the bias with mutual respect and understanding rather than by legal force. I will make Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) waived if aggrieved party decides so.

**STUDENT LOANS:** Will bring the cost of college education down and wipe out portions of student debt. Out of State tuition will be abolished across the board in Public Universities with federal reimbursement. Rural Americans will be recognized and designated as a diversity population for Affirmative Action in college admission. 529 plans will be federal and state tax exempt allowing parents to save tax free.

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Neil C. Parrott

**Campaign Website:** [http://www.neilparrott.org](http://www.neilparrott.org)

**Campaign Facebook:** [http://facebook.com/ParrottForCongress/](http://facebook.com/ParrottForCongress/)

**Campaign Twitter:** twitter.com/neilparrott

**Campaign Instagram:** [instagram-parrottforcongress](https://instagram-parrottforcongress)

**Campaign Email:** neil@neilparrott.org

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 329-0293

**GOALS:** Washington DC is a mess. District 6 needs a representative who lives in the District and who will work to improve our community and our country. I care about our nation and want to ensure that our children, that future generations, will have the same opportunities and freedoms that we enjoyed. Instead of playing political games, I’ll work for you to bring common-sense, practical solutions to DC.

**IMMIGRATION:** Existing immigration laws need to be followed. Lack of immigration enforcement and a porous southern border have led to suffering from gangs like MS 13 who terrorize our District, opioid and fentanyl deaths, and increased human trafficking. Sanctuary cities need to be stopped, the border wall needs to be constructed, and companies who take advantage of illegal aliens should be heavily fined.

**HEALTH CARE:** The Affordable Care Act is anything but affordable. Since passing, health insurance, health care, and prescription drug costs skyrocketed. The quality of care has also
degraded; when did you last see a real doctor instead of a PA? Our country can do better by repealing and replacing Obamacare by using free market solutions that will bring costs down and increase quality of care.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The primary world polluter is China. They dump over 96% more plastic into the ocean than the US and contribute the largest percentage of the world’s CO2. Given that, the US should not sacrifice our manufacturing jobs to countries that do not have effective environmental laws. Trade laws as a negotiating tactic to get China and other countries to pollute less.

**GUN SAFETY:** Access to firearms is guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. Our country has a violence epidemic. A major cause of the problem is that we no longer adequately treat the mentally ill as we should. Instead, they often live untreated until they commit an act of violence. Jails have been turned into our new insane asylums. Our jails should be for the career criminals who terrorize our communities.

**ECONOMY:** The American experiment has worked and is working. Our economic system is based on the government valuing property rights and providing a fair playing field so that everyone has the chance to succeed. Our system allows people to pursue their own individual goals, where incentives are provided to invest, to take risks, to work hard, or to acquire new skills.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Martin Luther King indicated that, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” It’s time for government policies to embrace this concept. For example, merit should be used to decide who receives government contracts and to decide who is accepted into AP classes.

**STUDENT LOANS:** Education. As a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, I manage a college scholarships program. When 1st year students apply, I ask them to read finance materials and to write a paper about the effect of college debt. Unfortunately, schools aren’t teaching our students proper financial literacy, and this year I’ve introduced a bill to require financial literacy to be a part of the curriculum.

**Democratic Candidates**
Democrats may vote for 1

Maxwell A. Bero

**Campaign Website:** [http://www.maxwellbero.com](http://www.maxwellbero.com)
**Campaign Facebook:** [http://facebook.com/beroforcongress](http://facebook.com/beroforcongress)
**Campaign Twitter:** twitter.com/beroforcongress
**Campaign Instagram:** IG: @beroforcongress
**Campaign Email:** campaign@maxwellbero.com

**GOALS:** I believe that real, progressive change, such as the Green New Deal and Medicare-for-all, is both possible and necessary in our country. The 6th District is my home; I grew up here, I live here, and I work here. I’m tired of not seeing my representatives in Congress fight for real progressive change, and want to do my best to deliver real change for my district.

**IMMIGRATION:** I support simplifying the path to citizenship and invest in widespread English education for all immigrants, to make it easier for immigrants to integrate into, and partake in, American society. We need to end the policy of separating families at the border; our country should not be in the business of building walls and turning people away, but rather welcoming people from all backgrounds.
HEALTH CARE: I support implementing single-payer Medicare-for-all. While the current Affordable Care Act helps some people, it does not go far enough to guarantee comprehensive health care to all citizens. Health care should not be tied to one’s job; no one should make a career decision based on insurance coverage. The government should provide comprehensive health coverage to all citizens.

ENVIRONMENT: The federal government needs to come together to pass the Green New Deal, and make environmental protection and addressing climate change a priority across the entire country and economy. The US should also take a leadership role on the world stage by rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and working with other countries to address climate change on a global scale.

GUN SAFETY: I support increasing background checks and red flag laws to prevent dangerous people from being able to own and purchase guns. I also support reinstating the assault rifle ban and limiting the size of magazines available to consumers, and expanding voluntary buyback programs, so people can voluntarily get guns off of their streets and out of the hands of criminals.

ECONOMY: I support raising the federal minimum wage to $15, and then tying the minimum wage to the rate of inflation, so that the economy does not expand faster than the wages of the working class. I also support a wealth tax and a new progressive tax bracket for those making over $10 million a year, to ensure that our wealthiest citizens are not hoarding wealth at the expense of our poorest Americans.

DISCRIMINATION: I support any and all legislation that makes any discrimination illegal, and fully support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. All citizens should feel secure in their ability to get and hold a job, have housing, and live their daily lives without fear of harassment and discrimination.

STUDENT LOANS: I support legislation that ensures a free path to a 4-year degree is available to all Americans, which would include a free 2-year associate's program at local community colleges. I will also support a student loan forgiveness plan that immediately eliminates all individual student loans less than $50,000, and progressively reduces loan amounts above that.

David J. Trone

Campaign Website: http://www.davidtrone.com
Campaign Facebook: http://facebook.com/davidjtrone
Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/davidjtrone
Campaign Instagram: @davidjtrone
Campaign Email: david@davidtrone.com
Campaign Phone: (301) 800-2103

GOALS: I’m running for reelection because we need people in Washington who think long-term and are committed to helping America’s most vulnerable. While we have made strides towards this goal, we must do more to end the opioid epidemic, reform our criminal justice system, and ensure every child receives a quality education. I’m committed to remaining in this fight for people.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are vital to maintaining the success and spirit of our nation. I support comprehensive immigration reform, and I was proud to help the House of Representatives pass H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, which would protect our Dreamers and those granted Temporary Protected Status. I will continue to work to against inhuman and cruel policies such as travel bans and family separation.

HEALTH CARE: The ACA helped millions of people access care, and it has played a crucial role as a step toward universal coverage. While we work to stop the Administration from
sabotaging it, we also need to work to build a healthcare system that lives up to our values and guarantees healthcare as a human right. I support allowing every American to buy into Medicare, creating a public health insurance option.

ENVIRONMENT: I’m proud to be endorsed by the Sierra Club, and I am honored to serve on the Foreign Relations committee, which is dedicated to crafting international environmental policy. Climate change is real, and we must act to combat this urgent threat before it is too late. House Democrats have acted to pass, the Climate Action Now Act, which requires the federal government to remain in the Paris Agreement

GUN SAFETY: Thoughts and prayers from politicians do nothing to reduce gun violence. Action from Congress, like H.R. 8, does. We need to enact common sense gun legislation, including universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, banning bump stocks and military-style assault weapons. We also need to take the power back from the gun lobby. The lives of all Americans are too important to risk.

ECONOMY: The Trump administration’s tax cuts for America’s most wealthy do nothing to improve the lives of working Americans. We need to reverse the Trump tax cuts and write a more equitable tax code to ensure that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share. I was also proud to support the Raise the Wage Act in Congress, which would raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour.

DISCRIMINATION: I am a proud co-sponsor of the Equality Act, which provides non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and education among others. This is just one of the many bills passed by the House that is sitting on the Senate Majority Leader’s desk. It’s time for the Senate to take a vote and ensure that we protect the rights of our minority communities.

STUDENT LOANS: I took out student loans to help finance my education, and as the only Member of Congress from Maryland serving on the Education and Labor Committee, I’m committed to reforming our education system and reducing student debt. We need to protect programs like the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program so that graduates who enter a career in public service don’t wind up with crippling debt.

Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Republican National Convention
Congressional District 6

Maryland will send a total of 38 delegates to the Republican National Convention, which will be held August 24-27, 2020 in Charlotte, NC. Each of the Congressional Districts will elect 3 delegates and 3 alternates. The presidential contender receiving the greatest number of votes in each District will receive the votes of all three of that District’s delegates. Each voter may vote for up to 3 candidates for delegate and 3 candidates for alternate.

In addition to the 24 delegates elected by the voters, 11 at-large delegates will be selected at the Maryland GOP convention by members of the State Republican Central Committees or their proxies. The votes of at-large delegates will be allocated to the presidential contender receiving the greatest number of votes in the primary statewide. Finally, three party leaders (the National Committeeman, the National Committeewoman, and the chairman of Maryland’s Republican Party) will attend the convention and vote by virtue of their positions.

Candidates were asked to respond to two questions. Due to the number of candidates, the list of candidates, their answers and links to their social media sites may be found at VOTE411.org.
Female and Male Delegates
to the Democratic National Convention
Congressional District 6

Maryland will send a total of 119 delegates and 8 alternates to the Democratic National Convention, which will be held August 17-20, 2020 in Milwaukee, WI. Voters from each Congressional District will vote for 7 to 9 delegates per District, for a statewide total of 65 elected delegates. Male and female delegates will be selected separately. Congressional district-level delegates will be selected based on the proportion of the vote won by the presidential candidate to whom they are pledged.

In addition to the 65 delegates from the Congressional Districts, there will be 23 delegates who are automatic party leaders and elected officials (PLEO) based on the positions they hold. Finally, the Democratic State Central Committee will select 10 additional party leader (PLEO) delegates and 21 at-large delegates. Additional details about the delegate selection process are posted on the Maryland Democratic Party website.

Candidates were asked to respond to two questions. Due to the number of candidates, the list of candidates, their answers and links to their social media sites may be found at: VOTE411.org.

**Allegany County Board of Education**

**DUTIES:** The Board of Education is responsible for the supervision of the public schools, including the selection of a Superintendent, approval of the annual budget, and establishing general policies governing the school system.

**SALARY:** From January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2022:
(1) President of the Board of Education: $7,428 per annum;
(2) Member of the Board of Education: $6,077 per annum

**TERM:** 4 year terms.

**HOW ELECTED:** Five members are elected at-large.

**Questions**

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

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** How would you rank the priorities of education needs, including teacher retention, class size, and school buildings?

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** How should the national and state standards be used to ensure a quality education for each child in the county?

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** What programs will you support to prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?
SCHOOL SAFETY: How will you address school safety issues such as gangs, bullying, and substance abuse?

PARTNERSHIPS: How will you promote partnerships with businesses and community organizations to improve the educational experience of our students?

PRIORITIES: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates
Voters may vote for 3

Crystal M. Bender

Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/crystalbenderboealco/

QUALIFICATIONS: Throughout my longtime career with ServiceMaster, as well as during my five years as a board member for a private academy, I have encountered unique problems and situations among employees, colleagues, and clients for which I have had to provide solutions. Problem resolution requires listening with the intent of understanding the issue before casually responding to it.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: I believe that our students should have the best resources available in the classroom, including modern technology and curriculum. The growth and achievement of our students cannot be attained without the dedication of great teachers; we must do everything in our power to attract and retain quality educators for our children. Proper building maintenance is vital for the safety of our students.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: While state and national standards can offer good insight into education levels, I don't believe it should be the sole measure of every child's academic achievement. Social and economic circumstances can play heavily into a student's individual performance. We should be evaluating students' performance with the understanding of the challenges they face in both in the classroom and at home.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: I believe the best resource we currently have for employment preparedness for our students is the Center for Career and Technical Education. Attention should be given to the quality and availability of classes and programs offered, so that students have every advantage for employment in their chosen field upon graduation.

SCHOOL SAFETY: There must be an increase in the presence and availability of School Resource Officers in each school in the county. If more SROs are working among our students it will promote more effective conflict resolution and incident prevention.

PARTNERSHIPS: My son participated in the recent Entrepreneurial Showcase held at the Board of Education, a competition in which middle-school students were required to work together to compose a business development plan. As part of their research, the students visited and communicated with local business owners to complete their plans. We should offer more opportunities such as this to our students.

PRIORITIES: As a member of the Board of Education, I feel I can be a voice of reason, conveying respect and positivity while working alongside fellow board members. Honest and open communication are essential to the effective functioning of any organization, and I will work to promote that mentality on the Board.
David A. Bohn

Campaign Facebook: http://facebook.com/bohn2020
Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/bohnforboard

No response received by deadline.

Tammy Fraley

Campaign Facebook: http://facebook.com/citizensfortammyfraley

QUALIFICATIONS: My professional experience as a senior systems integration consultant for financial systems and CPA - I have the ability to bridge the communication between board employees and our community. I also have over 15 years’ experience in governmental accounting and budgeting. My practical experience of serving on the board for four years under some challenging times will be beneficial as well.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: I believe that the board of education budget should focus on the ultimate mission of the system; however, we must be willing to recognize our internal challenges to ensure success. I believe we need to channel resources to the complete support of our students - focusing on the needs from social services to education.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: Within Maryland the standards and coinciding testing is driven at the state level. I openly support allowing more flexibility in testing/assessments as no one system/school/student can be placed in a box. We need to continue to challenge the state from our local level to ensure our students and teachers are treated equally and adequately.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: In Allegany County we have the distinct honor of having state of the art programs provided to our students through the Center for Career and Technical Education (CCTE). I actively support expanding the currently popular programs but also investigating current and future needs with our local business owners and trade unions. We also must provide opportunities to those needing practical experience.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Addressing school safety requires an understanding of the similarities and differences of each school within our system and the various issues that occur. I strongly advocate for having wrap around services which will include law enforcement, social services, mental health professionals, and educators to provide for the needs of the whole student and their families in our county.

PARTNERSHIPS: As many say “It Takes A Village” - Education is a key force in promoting economic development requiring partnerships with local businesses, area organizations, and other governmental agencies. I will ensure the board is more actively involved in all of these aspects.

PRIORITIES: I want to focus on moving Allegany County forward ensuring student success and active involvement in the community. I plan to continue with the drive for the students to be provided with several innovative programs that allow for student growth in the areas they wish to explore. I also will push to ensure the board remains forward moving within their own internal processes and procedures.

Michael Leptic

Campaign Website: http://www.electmichaelleptic.com
Campaign Facebook: http://facebook.com/michaelleptic2020
QUALIFICATIONS: The qualifications that I offer include 18 years of professional multi-unit management experience in various employment facets. I have extensive academic, mental health experience as I have earned an Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees in Psychology as well as extensive private security experience. I am a success at building coalitions with a strong teamwork mentality.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: The budget priorities include the following: 1. School security 2. Academic enrichment 3. Mental health awareness and anti-bullying measures 4. Teacher support and retention

STANDARDS AND TESTING: The standards and testing methodology must be looked into more in-depth. I do believe the current testing modality must be critiqued and revised, if applicable. I believe that if the curriculum is not being executed properly for the benefit of the students, then it must be revised to enhance academic enrichment. If scoring standards are not met, then the applicable changes must be made.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: There must be alternative educational plans in place to aid those students who do not want to seek higher education. These programs include trade, vocational, and entrepreneurship to ensure they are ready to join the workforce.

SCHOOL SAFETY: As a private security professional with nearly seven years of experience, I propose developing a tactical security plan that includes robust access control procedures to keep our students and teachers safe. Moreover, this consists of the implementation of a zero-tolerance policy against bullying, which includes repercussions for administrative staff that does not adequately address the problem.

PARTNERSHIPS: I support partnerships with local entities by promoting communication, after school programs, and other partnerships to help deter students from engaging in potentially negative behaviors. Moreover, this includes providing affiliations with local gyms, libraries, job fairs, and colleges and universities to employ a smoother transition to higher education and other trade position.

PRIORITY: The priorities of my candidacy include a strategic, 6-point plan that will positively IMPACT the school system, which includes the following: I - Integrity and ethical leadership M - Mental health awareness P - Protective enhancements and security A - Academic enrichment C - Communication between teachers, students, and parents T - Teacher support

Stephen M. Lewis

QUALIFICATIONS: 42+ years in education. Have experience in all facets of a school system. I have been a teacher, advisor, assistant principal, principal, athletic director, supervisor of several department in the ACPS system.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: Class sizes need to be small in elementary and middle schools due to the emphasis on Math and reading skills. Both middle schools need facility upgrades.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: It is in place as directed by State standards. Smaller elementary and middle school classes would help.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: FFA programs, on job mentoring and additional career center opportunities.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Biggest concern is classroom discipline. Principals should be in charge of the school, teachers be able to give instruction without students disrupting class and students should be held accountable for their actions.

PARTNERSHIPS: Expand opportunities like focus on the future, financial fitness workshops, etc. with community leaders.
**PRIORITIES:** To use my experience in that I have from working in all facets in education, provide input on policy, and to give input on the total school budget.

**Deb Litman**

Campaign Website: [http://www.deblitman.com](http://www.deblitman.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Having grown up in the Allegany County school system myself and sent my children to ACPS schools, I have a sincere interest in public education in Allegany County. I have served as director of communications for a number of non-profits, including a K-12 school, and as interim PIO for ACPS. I have sat on local boards, including Beginnings Montessori School and the Community Trust Foundation.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** I believe budget priorities should be ranked according to the impact they have on students’ ability to learn and succeed. The highest priority should be given to providing students with curricular opportunities and ensuring that teachers have the resources they need to provide students with opportunities to learn.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** National and state standards provide consistent guidelines regarding what skills students should obtain in core subjects. These standards can be useful in setting goals, informing instruction, and measuring achievement, but are not a substitute for creative, committed teachers who provide instruction that engages and inspires the students in their classrooms in unique and innovative ways.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I support programs that allow students to develop marketable skills and prepare for careers while still in high school. These include long-established Career and Tech Ed. Programs; newer initiatives such as the P-Tech program which trains students in computer tech and cybersecurity; and the Apprentice Maryland Program, a collaboration between ACPS, County Government, and local employers.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Providing a strong system of school-based mental health services for students is essential to student safety. In addition, training in identifying and responding to troubling behavior is vital. A system-wide effort also must be made to facilitate school climates where safety, trust, and emotional support are the norm and all members of the school community are empowered to share their concerns.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Collaborations between schools and community partners can enrich students’ experiences in the arts, environmental education, wellness, workforce preparation, political involvement, leadership training, and more. I am committed to making connections within the community, building on partnerships that already exist, and creating new opportunities to work together to strengthen student experience.

**PRIORITIES:** My focus would be on maximizing academic opportunities for students of all skill-levels, talents, and abilities; ensuring that the district stays up-to-date with educational best practices; providing teachers and administrators with the resources they need to help students be successful; and demonstrating fiscal responsibility.

**Tony Ottaviani**

No response received by deadline.
Edward L. Root

QUALIFICATIONS: I’ve been a public school teacher, coach, and administrator. I served on the State Board of Education 8 years, the last 4 as president. I served on the ACPS Board of Education 6 years, 2 as president. I’ve been a professor, department chair, and Dean of the College of Education at Frostburg State University.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: The more directly the budget relates to the students, the higher the priority should be. The classroom with an effective teacher is the key building block to a good school system. Teachers must have what they need to teach: materials, supplies, technology, and uninterrupted time.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: Clear standards and testing can set minimums, but they do not measure everything that is important in education. They can also be used to recognize those students who excel, which isn't often done. Standards should be applied consistently so that all students know and are meeting the same requirements.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: I am a supporter of career programs. We need college graduates, but we also need competent people in the trades. Care must be taken that students are not locked into a post-high school path too early. Every student must have a choice (college or career) even after graduation. Remember that many students choosing a career other than college may well have higher incomes.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Schools cannot do this alone, but must work with law enforcement, juvenile agencies, social workers, and parents. Schools need protocols to be certain that complaints are handled quickly and consistently. On a different level of safety, I served on our board when we put resource officers in schools and implemented an array of safety measures including that those officers be armed.

PARTNERSHIPS: Serving on both the state and local boards of education, I have seen how useful partnerships can be to add to the academic curriculum in providing things and opportunities that schools acting alone cannot provide. This goes beyond items that cost money to include aspects such as job shadowing, internships, advisory groups, external evaluations, and cooperative ventures.

PRIORITIES: To bring integrity, trust, and transparency to the office. The public needs to feel that the people in charge put students first. Beyond that, students need to feel secure and know what is expected of them. Teachers need to feel valued and supported, administrators need to know what they are responsible for and supported, and parents and the public need to feel respected and listened to.

Linda M. Widmyer

Campaign Facebook: http://facebook.com/LindaAldermanWidmyer

No response received by deadline.
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