**FACTS FOR GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

Questions about whether you are registered to vote can be checked online at [https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov](https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov) or by calling the Howard County Board of Elections at 410-313-5820.

**VOTER MAY VOTE AT ANY VOTING PLACE IN THIS ELECTION!**

You may take this Voters’ Guide into the polling place with you. Candidates’ answers in the Voters’ Guide appear as submitted. Thus, some misspellings and typing errors may appear. Answers exceeding the specified character limitation, the additional words were cut from the end of the candidate’s statement. The League assumes no responsibility for omissions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In keeping with League policy, the candidates’ answers in the Voters’ Guide appear as submitted. Thus, some misspellings and typing errors may appear. If answers exceeded the specified character limitation, the additional words were cut from the end of the candidate’s statement. The League assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. Some candidates may have withdrawn since the material was compiled, and not every candidate listed in the Guide will appear on every ballot. Thanks to all candidates who replied to the League of Women Voters questionnaire.

**EARLY VOTING**

October 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, November 1, 2 (7:00 am to 8:00 pm)

- **Wilde Lake High School**
  5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia

- **Reservoir High School**
  11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton

- **Marriotts Ridge High School**
  12100 Woodford Road, Marriottsville

**GENERAL ELECTION:** November 3 (7:00 am to 8:00 pm)

Polls are open from 7am to 8pm at:

- All 12 County High Schools; Elkridge Landing MS, Patuxent Valley MS, Meadowbrook Athletic Center, Laurel Woods ES, Lisbon ES

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

League of Women Voters of Howard County - General Election Voters’ Guide 2020

\[\text{Enclosed is my contribution of: ~$500 .... ~$100 .... ~$50 .... ~$25 .... Other ~$_____.}\]

\[\text{Name}\]

\[\text{Address}\]

Please make your check payable to LWVHC, Inc., or donate online via Paypal

\[\text{THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!}\]

League of Women Voters of Howard County, Inc.
League of Women Voters of Howard County Education Fund, Inc.
5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite C, Columbia, MD 21044
tel/fax 410-730-0142 • email: info@howard.lwvmd.org

Join the League or learn more about what we do at [https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org](https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org)

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/lwvhc](https://facebook.com/lwvhc)

Follow us on Twitter: @LWVHoCoMD

Support the League’s Mission to Provide Nonpartisan Information to Howard County Voters!

If you believe as we do, that informed voters are essential to a democracy, please make a tax-deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Howard County (LWVHC).

Enclosed is my contribution of: ~$500 .... ~$100 .... ~$50 .... ~$25 .... Other ~$_____.

\[\text{Name}\]

\[\text{Address}\]

Please make your check payable to LWVHC, Inc., or donate online via Paypal

\[\text{THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!}\]
General Election in Maryland November 3, 2020

What You Need to Know to Vote!

Campaigning will be severely restricted by the need for social distancing – Information on candidates for offices in every county in Maryland is being provided by the League of Women Voters at www.lwmd.org/2020_voters_guides, VOTE411.org and local League websites. LWVMD will also continue to post updates to election processes online at www.lwvmd.org/covid_19_and_the_upcoming_elections

Voting by Mail – How It Will Work

Most voters will cast their ballots by mail for the Presidential General Election scheduled for November 3, 2020. Ballot applications were mailed to voters on the active voter registration list, and a postage-paid return envelope for returning the ballot application was included in the packet mailed to each voter.

How to Complete & Return Your Mail-In Ballot

Ballots will be mailed with instructions for marking and returning them to the Board of Elections. Follow the instructions carefully – you must sign an oath that accompanies the ballot. Failure to complete the return envelope correctly may result in your ballot not being counted.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than 8:00 pm November 3, and must be received by November 13 at 10:00 am. In order to be counted, but voters are encouraged to return them earlier if possible. The Board of Elections website includes a form where you can check to see if your ballot was received.

In addition to returning ballots by mail, voters may also choose to return their ballots using secure drop boxes. These drop boxes will be located at Early Voting sites and Board of Elections from Sept. 28. Three more Drop Boxes will be available beginning November 12, at Elkridge Landing Middle School, Laurel Woods Elementary, and Lisbon Elementary School.

Protect your ballot – if you cannot deliver your ballot to a secure drop box, do not mail it, you can give your signed and sealed ballot to someone you trust to deliver it for you.

Limited In-Person Voting

Voters who need to use a ballot marking device, those registering to vote for the first time, and those who did not receive their ballot application but believe they are registered, will be able to vote in person on Election Day, November 3, from 7 am to 8 pm at voting centers that will be set up in each county. These may be locations that were used for Early Voting.

Because of the risk of transmitting the CoVid-19 virus wherever large numbers of people are gathered, voters are strongly encouraged to use Drop Boxes if at all possible and to use in-person voting only if it is not possible to vote by mail or use a Drop Box.

Have You Moved Recently or Missed an Election? (Learn how you can insure that you receive a ballot.)

Ballots will be mailed only to active voters, using the address on file with the Board of Elections. If a mailing from the Board of Elections was returned because you had moved or were temporarily at another address and you have missed voting in the past 4 years, you may have been placed on the inactive voter list. You will not be sent a ballot unless you notify the Board of Elections of your current address. You must make any changes to your registration by October 13.

1. You can verify your voter registration on the State Board of Elections website.
2. Use the same website to update your address if it is not correct.
3. If you are temporarily staying at another location and would like your ballot sent there, you should request an absentee ballot – you can do this on the State Board of Elections website.

What College Students Need to Know to Vote

If you registered to vote where you attended college and have since returned home, you may use the State Board of Elections website to:
1. Update your voting address to your home OK.
2. Request an absentee ballot.

Any changes to your information must be made by the close of registration on October 13.

If you had already applied for an absentee ballot to be mailed to your college address, contact your local Board of Elections to ask how to cancel your absentee ballot application. If you are unable to change your absentee ballot delivery, you may be able to vote a provisional ballot on November 3 at a voting center in the county where you are registered.

If you do not make these changes, your ballot will be mailed to your college address and may not be forwarded – you risk losing your right to vote.

Voters with Disabilities

Each voting center will have ballot marking devices for use by any voter who has difficulty reading and marking a paper ballot. Maryland also offers the option of internet delivery of a ballot, where a voter chooses an online ballot marking tool that is compatible with adaptive technology to enable those who may have difficulty reading and marking a paper ballot to access the internet. To request internet delivery of your ballot, apply for an absentee ballot on the State Board of Elections website, but you will need access to a printer and postage to use this option as the ballot cannot be returned via the internet.

How Advocates Can Help Voters in Jail or Prison

While a person convicted of a felony cannot vote while they are in prison (but are eligible to vote upon release), persons on parole, jail or prison for a misdemeanor or who are waiting for their trial can still register and vote.

We recommend that the voter use their permanent address as their voting address, and then request an absentee ballot to be sent to the correctional facility. If they do not return the absentee ballot, the voter-by-mail ballot for this election will be sent to their permanent address and need to be returned to the voter at the correctional facility. Visitation at correctional facilities may be limited due to the coronavirus, however. So, advocates will need to work with correctional supervisors to provide an inmate with a voter registration application when needed and an application for an absentee ballot from the State Board of Elections website.

FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. PRESIDENT and VP

**VOTE FOR 1 PAIR**

DUTIES: The President is: the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander-in-Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

Base Salary: $400,000 per year

Terms: Four years. Limit of two terms.

Criteria for Participation in VOTE411.org: All presidential candidates who will appear on Maryland’s ballot are listed below. Additional write-in candidates appear on the Maryland State Board of Elections website (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/general_candidates/index.html). 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: 1) The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; 2) The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication; 3) The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

Additional information on the candidates may be available on VOTE411.org.

Issues

COVID-19 RECOVERY: What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

TOP PRIORITY: What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

RACIAL INJUSTICE: How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

IMMIGRATION: What aspects of our current immigration policy will you administer differently?

HEALTHCARE: What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

REPUBLICAN

Donald J. Trump and Michael Pence

Campaign Website: www.donaldjtrump.com
Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/DonaldTrump
Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/realdonaldtrump
Other Instagram: instagram.com/realdonaldtrump

No response received by print deadline. See VOTE411.org.

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COVID-19 RECOVERY: It’s a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they’re linked. On Day One, I’ll implement the COVID strategy I’ve laid out since March – surge testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I’ll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I’ll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I’ll re-vitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

TOP PRIORITY: Pandemic. Racial. Racial injustice. Climate change. We’re facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I’ll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we’re never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I’ll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I’ll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I’ll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I’ll work as hard for those who don’t support us as for those who do. That’s a president’s job: to represent all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

RACIAL INJUSTICE: America is at an inflection point. It’s past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation’s promise to too many for too long. I’ll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I’ll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I’ll work real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

IMMIGRATION: My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It’s past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I’ll reverse Trump’s assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers’ arms. I’ll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a road-map to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that’s humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

HEALTHCARE: This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That’s why I’ll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting the health of 10 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I’ll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I’ll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

Term: Two years

Base Salary: $174,000

Website: www.house.gov

QUESTIONS - asked of all candidates in each district.

GOALS: Why are you running for this office?OBJETIVOS: ¿Por qué se postula para esta oficina?

IMMIGRATION: What, if anything, would you change regarding immigration policy?INMIGRACIÓN: ¿Qué cambiaría, si fuera el caso, con respecto a la política de inmigración?

REAL CARE: Would you vote to continue the Affordable Care Act as it is, expand it, or eliminate it? Please explain. ATENCIÓN MÉDICA: ¿Cuál debería ser el papel del gobierno federal para abordar las preocupaciones ambientales nacionales y mundiales?

GUN SAFETY: What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence? ¿Seguridad EN EL USO DE ARMAS DE FUEGO: ¿Qué políticas propone para reducir la violencia armada?

ENVIRONMENT: How would you address the growing income gap in our society/ECONOMÍA: ¿Cómo abordaría la creciente brecha de ingresos en nuestra sociedad?

DISCRIMINATION: What initiatives would you propose to address bias based on race, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, or disability?DIVERSIDAD: ¿Qué iniciativas propondrías para abordar los prejuicios basados en la raza, la identificación de género, la orientación sexual, la religión o la discapacidad?

STUDENT LOANS: What actions would you take to reduce student loan debt/PRÉSTAMOS ESTUDIANTILES: ¿Qué acciones apoyaría para reducir la pesada carga que representa la deuda de préstamos estudiantiles?

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1

REPUBLICAN

Johnny Ray Salling

GOALS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

HEALTH CARE: No response received by deadline.

ENVIRONMENT: No response received by deadline.

GUN SAFETY: No response received by deadline.

DIVERSITY: No response received by deadline.

DISCRIMINATION: No response received by deadline.

STUDENT LOANS: No response received by deadline.
GOALS: Congress needs people, like me, working across the aisle and focusing on the basics like good schools, safe streets and decent jobs. I want to keep focusing on national security as we prepare for the threats of tomorrow, including cyber attacks and nuclear weapons. I also want to continue my work on the American Dream, ensuring that Maryland and its communities get their fair share.

IMMIGRATION: I've stopped the President from raiding our military facilities and families to build the wasteful border wall. I'd end funding for the wall and move and move people out of detention facilities as quickly as possible by hiring more federal judges to reduce the court backlog. I also support passing comprehensive immigration reform that provides both sensible border security and a reasonable path to citizenship.

HEALTH CARE: We must continue the consumer protections provided by the ACA, but strengthen it by adding a public option that creates competition and lowers prices. We can also allow Americans to buy into Medicare at a younger age. We must address soaring prescription drug prices that are generating record profits for the pharmaceutical industry at the expense of Americans in need of life-saving medicines.

ENVIRONMENT: Since the U.S. is one of the world's leading polluters, the federal government must take the lead in addressing environmental and related concerns like climate change. We must re-join the Paris Treaty and work toward carbon neutrality. As an Appropriator, I support full funding for programs such as the Chesapeake Bay Program, which benefits our economy, creates jobs and preserves our natural heritage.

GUN SAFETY: I support banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, background checks on gun and ammo purchases, no-fly-no-buy and tougher penalties for straw purchases. People convicted of violent crimes, violent domestic abusers, should not be allowed to buy guns. I have introduced legislation to stop the cycle of gun violence, by voting hospital-based interventions for recovering victims.

ECONOMY: The middle class needs to make more money and we will do it by promoting tax cuts for the working class, as well as a minimum wage increase. Congress needs to address paid leave and advance robust “Buy American” provisions as well as workers’ rights to help strengthen the working class. I support investing in infrastructure to create jobs, as well as tax incentives for small business.

DISCRIMINATION: There is no place in our society for discrimination of any kind. That's why I support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, as well as passing The Equality Act and the Disability Integration Act once and for all.

STUDENT LOANS: I support legislation to lower student loan interest rates and allow students to refinance their student loads when rates decline. I support expanding federal loan forgiveness programs for students who choose certain in-demand careers, like teachers and nurses, and capping the dollar amount students must repay each month. We also need to increase the maximum value and number of Pell Grants.

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Campaign Website: http://www.dutchforcongress.com

GOALS: Congress needs people, like me, working across the aisle and focusing on the basics like good schools, safe streets and decent jobs. I want to keep focusing on national security as we prepare for the threats of tomorrow, including cyber attacks and nuclear weapons. I also want to continue my work on the American Dream, ensuring that Maryland and its communities get their fair share.

IMMIGRATION: I've stopped the President from raiding our military facilities and families to build the wasteful border wall. I'd end funding for the wall and move and move people out of detention facilities as quickly as possible by hiring more federal judges to reduce the court backlog. I also support passing comprehensive immigration reform that provides both sensible border security and a reasonable path to citizenship.

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ECONOMY: The middle class needs to make more money and we will do it by promoting tax cuts for the working class, as well as a minimum wage increase. Congress needs to address paid leave and advance robust “Buy American” provisions as well as workers’ rights to help strengthen the working class. I support investing in infrastructure to create jobs, as well as tax incentives for small business.

DISCRIMINATION: There is no place in our society for discrimination of any kind. That’s why I support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, as well as passing The Equality Act and the Disability Integration Act once and for all.

STUDENT LOANS: I supported legislation to lower student loan interest rates and allow students to refinance their student loads when rates decline. I support expanding federal loan forgiveness programs for students who choose certain in-demand careers, like teachers and nurses, and capping the dollar amount students must repay each month. We also need to increase the maximum value and number of Pell Grants.
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1.

REPUBLICAN
Kimberly Klacik
Campaign Website: http://KimKForCongress.com

GOALS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: Fix the legal immigration procedures and loopholes to make it more beneficial to US workers and legal immigrants. The current immigration policy exploits the workers for the benefit of large business and any change would have to focus on making the system focused on psychological competency.

ENVIRONMENT: No response received by deadline.

GUN SAFETY: Baltimore City has one of the highest homicide rates in the country and has extensive gun control currently in place. I would work to provide opportunities for those who are committing the violence.

ECONOMY: No response received by deadline.

HEALTH CARE: The current Affordable Care Act is not serving the needs of the customers and needs to be either revamped or eliminated.

ENVIRONMENT: No response received by deadline.

JUDICIAL OFFICES

HOWARD 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. Circuits may also 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 qualified members of the bar may also apply 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?

CALIFICACIONES: ¿Cómo le prepara su experiencia para las responsabilidades del cargo?

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

NECESIDADES DEL TRIBUNAL: ¿Cuáles son los mayores desafíos que enfrenta el sistema judicial de Maryland y cómo se pueden abordar?

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

REPRODUCTORES: ¿Qué acciones pueden tomar los tribunales para reducir la reincidencia?

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

¿Qué medidas pueden tomar los tribunales para reducir el riesgo de que el sesgo influya en el resultado de los procedimientos judiciales?

CANDIDATES

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1.

Democratic

Kwesi Mfume
Campaign Website: http://www.mfumeforcongress.com

GOALS: I believe the 7th Congressional District and our country face crucial crossroads ahead. I also believe it is important to always replace leadership with leadership. We cannot miss the opportunity to send the strongest representation to Congress now. Having served in this position for 10 years, I am the only candidate who is proven, tested, and ready to go to work on day one - with seniority.

IMMIGRATION: Immigration built America and it continues to be the heartbeat of the American economy. I will fight to require humane immigration policies at our borders so that we will not have to relive the tragedies of the last few years, e.g., policies that put people in cages or permanently divided children from their parents. In addition, I will work to create a sensible pathway to citizenship.

HEALTH CARE: Healthcare is a right. I will vote to expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA), beginning with restoring the protections stripped from the ACA by this Administration. My healthcare vision includes expanded healthcare access for low-income Americans, a public health insurance model like Medicare, enhanced private and/or employer-sponsored insurance options, and a tax credit to offset premium costs.

ENVIRONMENT: The federal government should be the chief architect and chief enforcement of existing and forward-looking environmental policies. It should implement environmental policies that incentivize responsible personal choices, motivate corporations to make better choices (by carrot, by stick or both), steer us towards an increasingly green economy, and establish America as a global environmental leader.

GUN SAFETY: Reinstating an assault weapons ban and adopting a national background check system focused on psychological competency are two key gun safety policies I will pursue in Congress. In 1994, I helped pass an assault weapons ban that lasted 10 years. Congress has not had the will to reinstate the ban once it was lifted. I will fight to change that if I earn the honor of serving the People in Congress.

ECONOMY: I will work to increase the federal minimum wage to $15/hour today, with that figure indexed to inflation. I will also work to revisit the most recent tax cuts for the highest earning Americans so that we can invest that money into educating our children and expanding skills training opportunities. The policy focus is investing in opportunities that prepare people to earn more money.

DISCRIMINATION: It sometimes appears as if our society faces more biases today than we did just a few years ago. The federal government must ensure existing anti-discrimination laws are fully enforced by the people and institutions created to do so. Next, our nation must acknowledge one form of bigotry is just as harmful as any other form of bigotry so our laws must align to reflect that truth.

STUDENT LOANS: The student loan crisis may cripple our future economy. We must act now to ensure a financially stable future workforce. I support allowing students to lower their student loan rates through refinancing, loan forgiveness programs for graduates working in certain public interest fields with incomes below a certain level, and in the most extreme cases full debt forgiveness.

WRITE-IN

Ray Bly
Campaign Website: http://raybly.com

GOALS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

HEALTH CARE: No response received by deadline.

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.

Republican

Kimberly Klacik
Campaign Website: http://kimkforcongress.com

GOALS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: Fix the legal immigration procedures and loopholes to make it more beneficial to US workers and legal immigrants. The current immigration policy exploits the workers for the benefit of large business and any change would have to focus on making the system focused on psychological competency.

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HEALTH CARE: The current Affordable Care Act is not serving the needs of the customers and needs to be either revamped or eliminated.

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THE ISSUES

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

CALIFICACIONES: ¿Cómo le prepara su experiencia para las responsabilidades del cargo?

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

NECESIDADES DEL TRIBUNAL: ¿Cuáles son los mayores desafíos que enfrenta el sistema judicial de Maryland y cómo se pueden abordar?

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

REPRODUCTORES: ¿Qué acciones pueden tomar los tribunales para reducir la reincidencia?

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

¿Qué medidas pueden tomar los tribunales para reducir el riesgo de que el sesgo influya en el resultado de los procedimientos judiciales?

CANDIDATES

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1.

Quincy L. Coleman
Campaign Website: http://www.quincylemanforjudge.com/
Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/kocircuitcourt/

QUALIFICATIONS: I have over 40 years of courtroom experience; including 20 years of experience as a Parole and Probation agent for the State of Maryland Division of Parole and Probation and over 20 years of as an attorney, advocating for people in both criminal and civil matters. I am well-prepared to make fair and sound decisions according to the rule of law, even in difficult or controversial matters.

COURT NEEDS: The greatest challenges would include lack of resources. There is a shortage of public interest attorneys to conduct prosecution, to defend those charged with crimes, and to represent people who have pending civil/ family matters. Also, there is a lack of effective substance abuse/mental health resources, which can be addressed through financial allocation and collaborative partnerships.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: In order to reduce recidivism, there needs to be more continuity and partnership between the courts and rehabilitative service providers to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention for the offender and to more effectively hold the offender accountable for improving their lives. Also, counseling offenders to help them realize the value of improving their lives cannot be dismissed.
**THE ISSUES**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this office? **CALIFICACIONES:** ¿Cómo le prepara su experiencia para las responsabilidades del cargo?

**COURT NEEDS:** What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's court system and how can these be addressed? **NECESIDADES DEL TRIBUNAL:** ¿Cuáles son los mayores desafíos que enfrenta el sistema judicial de Maryland y cómo se pueden abordar?

**REPEAL OFFENDERS:** What can the courts do to reduce recidivism? **DELINCUENTES RECIDIVENTES:** ¿Qué pueden hacer los tribunales para reducir la reincidencia?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What steps can the courts take to reduce the risk that bias will influence the outcome of legal proceedings? **DISCRIMINACIÓN:** ¿Qué medidas pueden tomar los tribunales para reducir el riesgo de que el sesgo influya en el resultado de los procedimientos judiciales?

**CANDIDATES**

**Vote to confirm or not to confirm each candidate.**

**E. Gregory Wells**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** No response received by deadline. **COURT NEEDS:** No response received by deadline. **REPEAL OFFENDERS:** No response received by deadline. **DISCRIMINATION:** No response received by deadline.

**Judge, Court of Special Appeals (C3: Western Maryland)**

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans’ Court in cases brought before it. The Court, usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent. The Court is composed of 15 judges: eight at large and one each from seven appellate judicial districts.

**SALARY:** 178,633 annual base.

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

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

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**CANDIDATES**

**Vote to confirm or not to confirm each candidate.**

**Kathryn Grill Graeff**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have 34 years of legal experience. The last 12 years, I have had the privilege of serving as a judge on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, where I have written more than 850 opinions and been appointed to leadership positions, including Chair of the Judicial Ethics Committee. Prior to becoming a judge, I was Chief of the Criminal Appeals Division in the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

**COURT NEEDS:** A big challenge facing the court system these last several months has been the coronavirus pandemic, which has impacted the court’s ability to provide access to justice while protecting the health and safety of all participants involved. The Court of Special Appeals has addressed this challenge by utilizing technology and holding remote court proceedings.

**REPEAL OFFENDERS:** One thing that courts can do to reduce recidivism is to understand and address underlying problems contributing to criminal activity. For example, the creation of drug courts, which help offenders address addiction problems, has been shown to reduce recidivism.

**DISCRIMINATION:** When I became a judge, I swore to be fair and impartial and to provide equal justice for all. Courts can help to reduce the risk of bias in legal proceedings in many ways, including educating all members of the judiciary on discrimination and implicit bias. The judiciary recently formed a Committee on Equal Justice to identify improvements that can be made to eliminate the risk of discrimination.
HOWARD COUNTY OFFICES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOW ELECTED BY DISTRICT - THE SAME DISTRICTS AS ARE REPRESENTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

DUTIES: The Board of Education of Howard County is responsible for setting local education policy consistent with state and federal laws governing public education. At the direction of the County Executive and the Superintendent and the school system’s administrative staff develop procedures, guidelines, and state-mandated regulations to support policy decisions.

SALARY: $18,000 chair; $16,000 individual
TERM: 4 years, no term limit

HOW ELECTED: The Board is composed of seven members: five members elected by county council districts for four-year terms, and two members at-large elected countywide for four-year terms. A student member is elected by students for a one-year term.

QUESTIONS

TITLE 1: Would you change how we allocate Title I funding in Howard County? Explain:

OPPORTUNITY GAP: What is your plan for closing the socio-economic and racial opportunity gap within Howard County Public Schools?

TEACHING FORCE: What strategies or ideas do you have to help diversify our teaching force to include more teachers of color?

MENTAL HEALTH: What strategies will you implement to improve access to mental health services within our schools?

SPECIAL EDUCATION: What plan do you have to ensure that the special educators and families with special education students? Do you have a plan to include more teachers of color?:

SECURITY: What additional security measures do you believe are needed in our schools?:

BUDGET: What experience do you have in managing, data entry and duplication of effort, and potentially wasteful staffing. A modernization review of existing systems and processes in human resources will support a 30-year strategic plan that will reduce administrative waste and expensive delays in staffing and employee management.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 1
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1.

Larry Prettlow II
Campaign Website: http://www.larrypretlow.com

TITLE 1: Title 1 schools require additional support and have intervention needs that may differ from other school communities. When we restructure school attendance areas based on the socio-economic status of the school population, we make it harder to dedicate needed resources. Directly, I will work to ensure every Title 1 school has resources funding to meet individual needs.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: I plan to ensure that we address the individual needs of every student without causing inconvenience to the students or their parents. There are socio-economic and racial opportunity gaps in Howard County. I will hold the county council accountable to the socio-economic needs and racial opportunity gaps of communities to develop practical solutions to improve the quality of life for all residents.

TEACHING FORCE: We have to make sure we have enough qualified teachers to educate every child. HCPSS has a diverse student population, and so I would work to encourage diversity of education applicants to match the diversity of our student population. We have to also focus on culturally relevant curriculum with parent, student, and teacher input before implementation.

MENTAL HEALTH: I plan to work with Mental Health experts to ensure school counselors receive practical training on how to assess, identify, and apply the same intervention plan for mental health issues. We must ensure counselors have a conceptual understanding of and can make practical recommendations to help students work towards healthy resolutions to deal with root causes.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: I believe that special education students are already underserved, and there’s not enough funding allocated to support special education needs. I want to ensure that appropriate personnel and there’s not enough funding allocated to support special education needs. I want to ensure that appropriate personnel receives updated training on safety and security policy.

BUDGET: I have ten years of experience working in both management and supervisory roles, and I’ve gained the functioning experience required to effectively manage employee relations, evaluate employee performance, ensure productivity, and adhere to an established operating budget. Our school budget must be reviewed with a fine-tooth comb with input from all stakeholders. We have to see what is working.

Antonia Barkley Watts
Campaign Website: http://www.miaiwatts.com

TITLE 1: I support the HCPS policy of concentrating Title I funding at the elementary level. Early intervention services can have a significant impact on educational outcomes and can increase long-term success. However,
the funding is used for school-wide programming which can miss some of our needs. I would also use intensive one-on-one instruction to improve learning.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: Students from traditionally disadvantaged backgrounds have significantly fewer educational opportunities compared to their peers. This starts even before kindergarten. Children without access to early education may enter school up to two years behind their peers and may never catch up. I will work to expand the number of high-quality and affordable pre-K programs in schools.

TEACHING FORCE: Teacher diversity can greatly improve ALL students’ outcomes through relationship building and cultural connections. We must actively recruit from teachers with large populations of color like Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Then, to retain these teachers, we must address the workplace welcoming through equity and implicit bias training.

MENTAL HEALTH: To improve access to services, it is necessary to increase the number of mental health professionals in each school. Also, it is important to expand training for everyone surrounding our young people to recognize warning signs and provide timely help. To prevent the worst, we must address the root cause and provide humane solutions rather than just vote no. Developing a plan to eliminate the deficit. I will also work to increase the number of mental health professionals in each school. Also, it is important to expand training for everyone surrounding our young people to recognize warning signs and provide timely help. To prevent the worst, we must address the root cause and provide humane solutions rather than just vote no.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: The diverse needs of students receiving special education services, and supports for our students exceed our current model nor improve service. Special education staff are overburdened. Absent steady, consistent, funding is used for school-wide programming which can miss some of our needs. I would also use intensive one-on-one instruction to improve learning.

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and identify the most responsible solutions.

needs associated with educational outcomes

SECURITY:

occurring.

The security challenges in our

SECURITY:

as needed.

TEACHING FORCE:

Minority teachers comprise

27% of the workforce, yet the percentage of minorities in the community is 44%. To close that gap, I would engage more minorities in the recruiting process and better target recruiting efforts to improve the pipeline of minority applicants.

MENTAL HEALTH:

to address the mental health crisis facing our students, I would focus on training for all educators to recognize and appropriately respond to the warning signs of mental health concerns. We must provide educators and staff with the proper resources to focus on mental health. Emphasizing testing and measures that focus on school performance should not be the sole focus of our educators.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

There are two critical aspects of special education challenges that I would improve in the next term. First is proper training for educators and support staff who interact with our special education students. While we need to increase the total number of special educators, we must ensure they are properly trained (OG). Second, I would focus on regular assessments of proving stance and make adjustments as needed.

SECURITY:

The security challenges in our schools are twofold: physical security of buildings and the mental health of our children.

While some measures have been taken to address physical security, at the core of many challenges are the mental health issues that plague our children. We must better address depression, anxiety and bullying behavior across our schools to prevent these crises from occurring.

BUDGET: I have executive leadership responsibility in a >$1.5B organization and extensive experience with audit-type corporations while balancing limited resources. I would take a more rigorous approach to decision-making that empowers frontline individuals and a systematic, objective analysis to prioritize the most critical needs associated with educational outcomes and identify the most responsible solutions.

Julie Hotopp (Write-In) Campaign Website: http://hotopp4boe.wixsite.com/mysite

TITLE 1: I would not change the allocation method. I grew up in poverty and know all too well the stigma associated with poverty. The current Title 1 model, which provides services to all students in a school with >40% FAPs, participation ensures that kids targeted by the program can get the assistance they need while avoiding that stigma. I want all kids to know that the world is their playground.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: We need to address national trends. For instance, there are 100 students who frequently switch between adjacent schools mid-year due to apartment rent instability. Let’s explore a program that allows the teacher with the student for the remainder of the year, providing stability for both the child and potentially staffing within the school.

TEACHING FORCE: Given the nationwide shortage of African American and Hispanic teachers, we need to make sure we retain teachers representing our diversity. We need targeted, aggressive recruitment efforts at local colleges and strategic efforts to recruit teachers programs. And we need to encourage and enable diverse men and women to become teachers through more programs like the Para to Teacher program.

MENTAL HEALTH: We need to advocate to ensure there are enough mental health workers in our schools to address the increase in mental health issues. We also need to address the stigma that surrounds mental health.

We need to expand that our appropriate curriculum on mental health from pre-K to graduation will destigmatize mental health care and encourage children to seek out services when they need them.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: We need to advocate for more special education funding and find ways to also support students. I would advocate for programs to train teachers to appropriately assess and identify children in early grade levels, and where appropriate, to rapidly deploy remediation as early as possible. Early intervention is the least expensive and most successful intervention. It is fiscally prudent.

SECURITY: Investing in mental health is an excellent way to improve security at school. Mental health services lead to lower rates of suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary incidents while improving attendance, academic achievement, and graduation rates. We also need to examine if a different model of protector/enforcer could secure safety instead of police. I would consider retraining some resource officers.

BUDGET: I write and administer multi-year multi-million dollar budgets that fund my research group. Many of HCPSS’s current programs leverage existing ones, but in my research, we have identified gaps that are due to the multi-year healthcare deficit.

I am shocked at how wrong the actuarial estimates were for so many consecutive years and will work to ensure that this has been adequately addressed to ensure it does not happen again.

Yun Lu
Campagne Website: http://www.lu4boe.org

TITLE 1: Yes. HCPSS allocates the funds to 13 Title 1 elementary schools to operate school wide programs. The disadvantaged students in non Title 1 schools will not benefit from the program. I propose to continue using a large part of the funding to support school wide programs and start a pilot program to apply a small part of the funding to improve high school dropout rates for disadvantaged students.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: Addressing the root cause of opportunity gap involves efforts outside of school system. Schools need to foster a positive learning environment, take time to understand the students, help them gain confidence, motivate them to learn and adopt teaching methods that sufficiently address student need. The schools can provide free tutoring services to disadvantaged students and help them improve.

TEACHING FORCE: Since there are only a limited number of teachers of color in the potential teaching force pool, we need to encourage more African American and Hispanic teachers. To inspire students of color, we can help them identify role models that they could relate to other than role models such as a teacher who came from pov- erty, a teacher who is a non-native speaker, a teacher who overcame obstacles.

MENTAL HEALTH: In public health, education, early detection, early intervention are effective strategies. It is essential for school system to recognize mental health challenges among students, parents, teachers, and communities, and provide trainings so people know how to appropri- ately react. The first step would be to work on changing the overall environment so students can feel comfortable talking about mental health.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: We need to advocate for more local, state and federal funding for special education and more training for special HCPSS MUST alter its hiring schedule and offer “open contracts” so active recruitment efforts (including at HBCUs) can lead to hiring great candidates before they commit to other systems. After hiring, however, HCPSS MUST provide mentoring, support, and professional development for all of our new teachers, but especially teachers of color who face additional obstacles.

Mental health: Starting with providing properly staffed and nurturing classrooms as a preservice measure. More training on mental and health issues that plague our children, we must provide training to the classroom educators and administration by closely looking at the contracts to see what early intervention is the most effective. I continue to believe that we need to have older students who have unmet needs. I would like to see HCPSS evaluate options for using some Title I funding for the benefit of eligible older students.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: Adequate staffing and small class size is critical to the success of the most vulnerable students. I support providing elementary and middle schools that run on a 7-week vs. 6-week term. This approach, VOLUNTARY, with opportunities for enrichment, remediation, and mini camps offered at little or no cost during the 3 week off periods. This has proved very effective for the most vulnerable students.

TEACHING FORCE: The HCPSS MUST alter its hiring schedule and offer “open contracts” so active recruitment efforts (including at HBCUs) can lead to hiring great candidates before they commit to other systems. After hiring, however, HCPSS MUST provide mentoring, support, and professional development for all of our new teachers, but especially teachers of color who face additional obstacles.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION: Appropriate staffing levels of properly credentialed and trained educators and support staff, is critical to all students. None are currently receiving our promised level of service, but especially our special education students. Years of cuts to special education staff and programming have led to an untenable situation. Acknowledging this truth is the first step, with investment following.

SECURITY: The most effective security measures is properly staffed schools with well trained educators and staff with the time and resources to know the students and respond to distressed students in a timely way; to intervene before crisis situations erupt. Taking money out of the classrooms to build up a system to respond to crisis caused by the lack of classroom resources has failed miserably.

BUDGET: I have 8 years of first hand experience with the HCPSS budget, including seeing what has not worked. “Zero based” budgeting has not worked in any organization and should, but should be implemented as a reset for the system. The budget should be rebuilt from the “bottom up” - starting with the classrooms, educating the educators in front of students, and the resources they need. All choices should begin with
MARYLAND BALLOT QUESTIONS

Maryland State Question 1
Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 645 of the 2020 Legislative Session) State Budget Process (Amending Article II Section 17 and Article III Section 14 and 52 of the Maryland Constitution)

The proposed amendment authorizes the General Assembly, in enacting a balanced budget bill for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to increase, diminish, or add items provided that the General Assembly may not exceed the total proposed budget as submitted by the Governor.

✓ For the Constitutional Amendment
✓ Against the Constitutional Amendment

Origin of the ballot question: The 2020 session of the General Assembly passed legislation (SB 1028) proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the authority of the General Assembly in the budget process. A bill that amends the Maryland Constitution requires a three/fifth vote in each chamber (Maryland Senate and House of Delegates) in approval by a majority of voters at the next general election.

Present Practice: The Maryland Constitution prohibits the General Assembly from increasing any budget item or adding any new items to the Governor’s proposed budget for any of the government agencies except the Judicial branch and the operations of the General Assembly itself, nor can it move funds from one agency to another. The General Assembly can only recommend cuts to state agency budgets unless it identifies and enacts a new revenue source to fund additional items. Once a budget passes the Senate and House, it becomes law and cannot be changed or vetoed by the Governor.

Proposed Change: If passed, the General Assembly could move spending in the budget proposed by the Governor from one agency to another as long as the total amount of the budget does not exceed the total amount in Governor’s proposed budget. The General Assembly could also add spending to a new item, as long as it does not exceed the amount of spending proposed by the Governor.

Arguments In Favor:
• Maryland’s legislators have less power in the budget process than any other legislature in the United States.
• Members of the public might have more ability to influence funding for programs of importance to them because they have more opportunities to interact with legislators during the General Assembly. 
• For decades, Republican and Democratic legislators have proposed this change while Governors from both major political parties have been in power. The provisions of this bill will not take effect until the election of a new Governor and members of the General Assembly are elected.
• This Constitutional Amendment would not change the current requirement that the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget.

Arguments Against:
• Because the Governor would have the power to enact line item vetoes, there may be more Special Sessions to override those vetoes. Special Sessions come with a cost.
• Because the public will be advocating for new or increased funding for particular programs, legislators could be swayed to support programs that the Governor did not feel should be funded at that level.
• It could take longer to pass a budget. Legislators may have more concern about programs that affect their constituents, while the Governor may have a more statewide perspective.

A vote FOR the constitutional amendment means the legislature will be able to adjust spending in the Governor’s budget by reducing some items and increasing others as long as the total amount of spending does not exceed the amount of spending proposed by the Governor.

A vote AGAINST the constitutional amendment means current law would remain in place and the legislature will only be able to reduce the expenditures within the budget proposed by the Governor.

Maryland State Question 2
Commercial Gaming Expansion Referendum (Ch. 492 of the 2020 Legislative Session) Expansion of Commercial Gaming-Sports and Event Wagering

Do you approve the expansion of commercial gaming in the State of Maryland to authorize sports and events betting for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education?

✓ For the referred law.
✓ Against the referred law.

Origin of the ballot question: In 2007, the Maryland Constitution was amended to say that the General Assembly may only authorize additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming if approved through a referendum by a majority of the voters in a general election. In 2020 the General Assembly passed SB 4 that would authorize it to pass laws to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in the State if approved by voters in the next General Election. The bill also stated that the primary purpose of this expansion of gambling would be to raise revenue for education.

Present Practice: In 2008 Maryland voters first approved gambling via video lottery terminals (slot machines.) In 2012, voters approved expanding the allowable number of video lottery terminals and authorized table games in casinos. Wagering on a contest, event, game, or match between individuals or teams sponsored by a professional league or association or hosted by a college or university is currently illegal in Maryland.

Proposed Change: If the referendum is approved, the General Assembly would then need to pass legislation that authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue licenses for sports and event wagering in the State. The legislation must include the criteria for eligible applications for a licensee and specify the permitted forms, means of conducting, and locations where sports wagering would take place. The bill that sent this question to the voters also requires a study by the General Assembly to evaluate whether there is reason to assist minorities and women in the sports and event wagering industry and market. This study is to be completed by October 1, 2020, and any recommendations that result can be considered when the General Assembly establishes criteria for licenses (assuming the referendum passes.)

Arguments In Favor:
• Allowing sports betting in Maryland would enable the state to compete with the fourteen states that are already raising revenue this way.
• Illegal sports betting already takes place. Maryland should provide a legal way to place such bets to tap into that market and thereby reduce criminal activity.
• Depending on how it is implemented, Maryland could raise as much as $20 million a year that could be invested in education which could yield long term benefits for Maryland residents.

Arguments Against:
• Maryland already has legalized a lottery, slot machines and casinos with various gambling table games. This would add another way to raise money from people who may not be able to afford it and may become addicted to gambling.
• If sports betting is implemented in a similar manner to casino gambling, most of the revenue raised will likely go to the gambling venues with only a small portion going to education. 
• Sports betting could have an impact on how fans watch games because they could be more interested in making money than appreciating the sport. It could impact the game for players as well, especially if wagering is allowed on college sports.

A vote FOR the referred law means the General Assembly will be able to pass legislation to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in Maryland with a portion of the revenue going to support public education. 

A vote AGAINST the referred law means that commercial wagering on sporting events will remain illegal in Maryland. The bill also stated that it is illegal in Maryland.

LOCAL BALLOT QUESTIONS

Howard County Question A
Charter Amendment

Redistricting Dates
Changing the Howard County Charter to allow the County Council to set dates for drawing new Council district borders. After each official count of everyone who lives in the County, the Council would quickly form a redistricting commission and set dates for the commission to submit a plan for new Council district borders and for the plan to become law if the Council does not adopt a different plan. The dates for these actions are now set by the County Charter, which uses an outdated State election schedule.

Howard County Question B
Charter Amendment
Citizen Board Term
Changing the Howard County Charter to shorten the term a resident would serve as a member on most County boards from five years to three years.

Howard County Question C
Charter Amendment
County Employment Discrimination
Changing the Howard County Charter to prohibit employment discrimination by Howard County based on a person’s political or religious opinions or associations or race.