



Carroll County Voters' Guide 2020 General Election

Published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland

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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Voting by Mail

Applications for Ballots

Every voter on the active voter registration list was mailed an application for a mail-in/absentee ballot at the end of August. If you did not receive an application, you should check your voter registration information at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call your Board of Elections. The most common reason for being placed in the inactive voter list is moving without notifying the Board of Elections of your new address, so that election mail sent to you is returned to the Board of Elections. If you have questions, call the Board of Elections.

You may request a mail-in ballot by completing the application form or by applying online at https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html.

Applications for ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Receiving Ballots via the Postal Service or the Internet

Maryland offers internet delivery of ballots and an online ballot marking tool. This option is compatible with adaptive technology. It enables those with disabilities to access the internet and should be reserved as much as possible for these voters.

We strongly encourage the large majority of voters to request a paper ballot. Ballots delivered by internet and printed on a home printer cannot be scanned by the scanners in use for elections. When such home-printed ballots are received at the Board of Elections, they must be copied onto standard ballots for scanning. This delays the counting of ballots.

Ballots delivered via the internet must be printed and returned to the Board of Elections. They cannot be emailed.

Returning Ballots

The envelope for returning your ballot will have a place for your signature. Your ballot cannot be counted if you do not sign and date the envelope where indicated. If there is more than one voter in your household, be careful not to mix ballots and envelopes.

You have several options for returning your ballot:

1. **All ballots must be returned or be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.**
2. **U.S. Mail:** Your ballot packet will include a postage paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. You may also use a private delivery service, but your ballot still must be sent no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.
3. **Ballot drop boxes:** Drop boxes will be available at the locations listed below in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations beginning at the date indicated and available until 8 p.m. on Election Day. A list of these locations will also come with your ballot. Board of Elections staff will empty the drop boxes multiple times each day.
4. **Vote centers:** Ballots may be returned inside any vote center during Early Voting or on Election Day.
5. **Board of Elections:** Ballots may be returned to the Board of Elections.

Note: *If you request a mail-in ballot, you will not be permitted to cast an ordinary ballot during Early Voting or on Election Day. You will be provided a provisional ballot that will be counted only if your absentee ballot is not received.*

Voting in Person

Early Voting: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., October 26-November 2

Early voting will be available at designated vote centers; these locations are listed below in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations. Voters may use any Early Vote Center in their county. 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 use the ballot they received should also go to an Early Voting Center.

Election Day: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3

Due to Covid-19 precautions, the usual precinct polling places will not be open for the November 3, 2020 general election. Instead, voters can use any Vote Center in their county. 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 use the ballot they received should also go to a Vote Center. **On Election Day, voters may use any of the sites used for Early Voting or any of the additional Vote Centers listed in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations.**

Drop Box and Voting Locations

Drop Box Locations

October 1 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Board of Elections Office, 300 S Center St. Westminster, MD 21157
- South Carroll Swim Club, 1900 W Liberty Road, Westminster, MD, 21157
- Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Avenue, Westminster, MD, 21157

October 15-17 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Liberty High School, 5855 Bartholow Road, Sykesville, MD, 21784
- North Carroll Senior Center, 2328 Hanover Pike Hampstead, MD 21074
- Taneytown Police Station, 120 E Baltimore St. Taneytown, MD 21787

Early Voting Sites

7 a.m. - 8 p.m., October 26-November 2

- South Carroll Swim Club, 1900 W Liberty Road, Westminster, MD, 21157
- Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Avenue, Westminster, MD, 21157

Additional Voting Sites on Election Day

7 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3

- Francis Scott Key High School, 3825 Bark Hill Road, Union Bridge, MD, 21791
- Liberty High School, 5855 Bartholow Road, Sykesville, MD, 21784
- Manchester Valley High School, 3300 Maple Grove Road, Manchester, MD, 21102
- North Carroll Middle School, 2401 Hanover Pike, Hampstead, MD, 21074
- Old New Windsor Community Room, 1100 Green Valley Road, New Windsor, MD, 21776
- Parrs Ridge Elementary School, 202 Watersville Road, Mount Airy, MD, 21771
- Pleasant Valley Fire Department, 2030 S Pleasant Valley Road, Westminster, MD, 21157
- Sandymount Elementary School, 2222 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg, MD, 21048
- South Carroll High School, 1300 W Old Liberty Road, Sykesville, MD, 21784
- Taneytown Elementary School, 100 Kings Drive, Taneytown, MD, 21787
- Winters Mill High School, 560 Gorsuch Road, Westminster, MD, 21157

President and Vice President of the United States

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. 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 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: 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 your administration address first?

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

Candidates

Vote for 1 pair

Donald. J. Trump and Michael Pence

Republican

Campaign Website: www.donaldjtrump.com

Campaign Facebook: [facebook.com/DonaldTrump](https://www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump)

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/realdonaldtrump

Campaign Instagram: [instagram.com/realdonaldtrump](https://www.instagram.com/realdonaldtrump)

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

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Democrat

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

Campaign Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/joebiden/](https://www.facebook.com/joebiden/)

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/JoeBiden

Campaign Instagram: [http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/](https://www.instagram.com/joebiden/)

Campaign YouTube: [http://www.youtube.com/joebiden](https://www.youtube.com/joebiden)

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 – surging 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 revitalize 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. Recession. 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 me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us 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 strong 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 for 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 roadmap 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 100 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.

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Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Spike Cohen

Libertarian

Campaign Website: www.Jo20.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/JoJorgensen2020

Campaign Twitter: @Jorgensen4Potus

This candidate did not meet the criteria for an invitation to participate.

Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker

Green

Campaign Website: www.howiehawkins.us

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/runhowierun2020

Campaign Twitter: @howiehawkins

This candidate did not meet the criteria for an invitation to participate.

Jerome M. Segal and John de Graaf

Bread and Roses

Campaign Website: www.segalforpresident.org

This candidate did not meet the criteria for an invitation to participate.

Representative in Congress

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

Issues

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?

Congressional District 1

Candidates

Vote for 1

Andy Harris

Republican Party

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

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/Harris4Congress

Campaign Email: info@andyharris.com

Campaign Phone: (443) 693-7244

GOALS: I am running for re-election to make sure that everyone in the First District will have a representative in Congress who pays attention to what the people need from the federal government, listens to them, and can provide timely and effective constituent services when problems arise for them with any federal agency, like Social Security, the VA, Medicare, or the IRS.

IMMIGRATION: We need to be sure that we have an adequate supply of temporary foreign workers for industries important to the First District, like the crab picking industry and the tourism industry. I have been a leader on these issues in Washington, since so many small and family-owned businesses in the district depend on those workers, especially when the economy is so good and employees are so hard to find.

HEALTH CARE: We need to make health care more affordable - that was the main problem with the Affordable Care Act. We need to bring down the cost not only of insurance (maintaining coverage for any pre-existing conditions), but of health care itself. We have to bring down the high cost of prescription drugs, and we should have price transparency for all medical services and drugs.

ENVIRONMENT: By encouraging the use of exploration and production of natural gas to replace coal to generate electricity, the federal government brought down CO2 use in America for the third year in a row, exceeding the reduction of many countries in the Paris Climate Accords. We need to encourage the use of clean energy, especially exploring new advances in nuclear power generation which are safe and clean.

GUN SAFETY: Gun crimes must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. In Baltimore City, where Maryland's strict gun control laws have failed to stem the tide of handgun murders, we should send in federal law enforcement and prosecutors to help find and prosecute everyone who commits a felony with a handgun, and everyone who illegally possesses or attempts to buy a gun. We should enforce current laws.

ECONOMY: The successful economic policies of the Trump administration have resulted in a \$5,000 increase in the median family income in America over the last five years, and the lowest unemployment rate in half a century, with record low unemployment for African-Americans and Hispanics. Strengthening our economy and resisting socialist policies are the best way to increase incomes.

DISCRIMINATION: There are enough laws on the books, but in many countries in the world, there is an increasing problem with religious discrimination, especially against religious minorities like Christians, Jews, and Muslims . I applaud the President's efforts to fight religious discrimination world-wide, and more needs to be done. Congress should be a partner with the administration in these efforts.

STUDENT LOANS: Lower cost higher education alternatives need to be developed. With the new digital age, online education is underutilized. We need to consider a new, less expensive plan for college - such as the first 2 years online, at one-fifth to one-tenth the cost. The last 2 years, and graduate education could still be on a physical campus. We also need to encourage career training in high school.

Mia Mason

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: <http://miadmason.us>

Campaign Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/mia4md>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/mia4md

Campaign Instagram: [instagram.com/mia4md](https://www.instagram.com/mia4md)

Campaign Email: vote4miamason@miadmason.us

Campaign Phone: (410) 946-2766

GOALS: I'm running to represent Maryland District One by restoring Accountability, Equality, and Integrity as sworn to the Oath of Office. Our current representation works against our citizen's healthcare concerns, their fundamental civil rights protections, and leads education systems into despair. Therefore, we seek to renew the primary goals of communities to have better education, jobs, & healthcare.

IMMIGRATION: Families need a legal pathway system to help represent those at trial or for those who seeking immigration rather than deportation. We're looking to reduce costs for families who are separated and burdened with little regard for those who are actual citizens. We do not believe in deportation for small infractions, only those with felonies as major crimes. We're a nation of immigrants since 1607.

HEALTH CARE: We seek to expand ACA to Medicare for All. Our Goals are ensuring providers meet all standards of Medicare for all, with expansion to all ages. We are protecting pre-existing conditions & ending exclusions that allow discrimination of care or denial of treatment and medicines. Private insurers & employers should be in compliance to have healthier workers by 2030. Thus, you can keep your plan too.

ENVIRONMENT: First, we must sign to Paris Accords again. Then enact legislation to have our Federal EPA comply with protecting our environment, and not delegate responsibilities to private sectors. We must fund our Chesapeake Bay protection fund to assist our

communities, councils best, and companies to reward their efforts in protecting our Bay, State, and Planet in Solar, Wind, and Energy Storage utilities.

GUN SAFETY: We would propose adding all weapons permits, training, and carry status on the back of driver license or Real ID for easy reading. License additions shall include your guns as authorized to carry by type, a designation of your training certification for those weapons, and any FFL Status. Doing this provides a reduction of paperwork, additional permits, & can allow joint multi-state authorizations.

ECONOMY: For Education, we support the Kirwan commission reporting and seek to support the state from a federal level as needed. For Infrastructure, we would seek innovation companies, manufacturers, and small businesses to keep our twelve Counties thriving. For Wages, we would co-sponsor House Bill 582 Raise the Wage Act and seek passage of Senate Bill 150 for a federal minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour.

DISCRIMINATION: Currently, 38 states support the Equal Rights Amendment. Therefore, I would sponsor a bill to our House of Representatives to introduce the Constitutional Amendment again. We seek to protect all our Civil Rights Act of 1964. As a member of the LGBTQ community, we seek to protect everyone for their national origin, race, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or religion.

STUDENT LOANS: For student loans, we seek to reduce interest rates to be no higher than ten percent ever for private loans to for-profit schools. Forgive those loans of our veterans and communities who are applying for assistance. Ensure the Department of Education holds any and all colleges accountable. DOE should also seek to provide a pathway to make non-profit colleges tuition-free for all our communities.

Congressional District 8

Candidates

Vote for 1

Gregory Thomas Coll

Republican Party

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/gregorycoll2>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/collforcongress

Campaign Email: info@gregorycoll.com

Campaign Phone: (386) 679-1251

GOALS: I, Gregory Coll, am happy to announce my run for U.S. Congress Maryland District 8 to represent the people. Work in Washington is at a standstill, I, Gregory Coll, want to stop the distractions and keep focus on key issues impacting Americans including: employment, budget, healthcare, education, environment, military and defense, law and order, and the national space policy. www.gregorycoll.com

IMMIGRATION: I, Gregory Coll, want to promote and welcome legal immigration and put a stop to illegal border crossings. Passing legislation to up the legal immigration caps, and making it simpler for legal immigration processing is key; especially when the individuals have studied in the U.S. and have employment sponsored support. I, Gregory Coll, want to attract the best people from around the world.

HEALTH CARE: No, I, Gregory Coll, know patients should come first in U.S. healthcare. Healthcare systems run by governments are inefficient, reduce standards of care, and diminish patient and physician relationships. Healthcare based in free market principals, promotes competition, drives down costs and gives the power to patients and physicians. Flexible Spending Accounts unspent money should roll over.

ENVIRONMENT: Our environment needs to be conserved and maintained for future generations. I, Gregory Coll want to study and address environmental concerns, stop pollution, and stop over-stressing our natural resources, especially marine resources like

fisheries. I, Gregory Coll, believe climate change is real and needs to be addressed rationally and with an associated risk and return posture.

GUN SAFETY: I, Gregory Coll, want to support local police stop criminal activity and crack down on illegal possession of fire arms, without sacrificing law abiding citizens' rights to bear arms. For more information please visit www.gregorycoll.com.

ECONOMY: I, Gregory Coll, know that we can rebuild the greatest economy in history and lift millions of Americans out of poverty, helping them secure high paying jobs, and be self reliant. Making resources available to our top scientists working on a vaccine, and having the capacity to produce and distribute the vaccine are key. For more information please visit www.gregorycoll.com.

DISCRIMINATION: I, Gregory Coll, believe in equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. Stopping bias based programs will help eliminate discrimination. Making resources available to our top scientists working on a vaccine, and having the capacity to produce and distribute the vaccine are key. visit www.gregorycoll.com.

STUDENT LOANS: I, Gregory Coll, believe that the cost of college education is on an increasing trajectory, has been rising ahead of inflation year after year, and needs to be more affordable for students. Cooperation between industry, government and higher education institutions will allow more resources for education and lower tuition for students, reducing student loan debt. Please visit www.gregorycoll.com.

Jamie Raskin

Democratic Party

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/raskin.jamie/>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/jamie_raskin

Campaign Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/raskinforcongress/?hl=en>

Campaign Email: info@jamieraskin.com

Campaign Phone: (240) 847-4937

GOALS: To provide the best possible constituent services to the people of Montgomery, Frederick and Carroll Counties; To restore the government as an instrument of the common good and social progress; And to defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights, strong democracy, and the rule of law.

IMMIGRATION: We need to end the cruel and inhumane treatment of children and families at our border and stop funding the president's dangerous and profligate border wall; restore protections for refugees and asylum seekers; and pass HR 6, the Dream and Promise Act, to provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers and families that have lived here for years due to disaster or conflict in their home countries.

HEALTH CARE: I have consistently fought to defend the ACA and the lifesaving coverage it provides to millions of individuals with preexisting conditions. While I work to protect the ACA, I strongly support moving towards a single-payer universal healthcare system that does not exclude anyone and saves hundreds of billions of dollars spent on insurance bureaucracy.

ENVIRONMENT: We must reorganize the federal government to effectively confront this civilizational crisis. I support policies to transition to a green economy, invest in clean energy technologies and help fossil fuel industry workers retrain for new jobs. My colleagues and I are also working on a plan to revitalize America's ailing infrastructure in a way that advances our urgent environmental goals.

GUN SAFETY: I support a universal background check; a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; and barring violently dangerous people from possessing or purchasing firearms; and will not rest until we hold the gun industry accountable for its role in deadly firearm-involved violence. I worked and voted to pass several bills out of the Judiciary Committee including HR 8, HR 1186, HR 1236 & HR 2708.

ECONOMY: We need to reverse the GOP tax scam that gave massive corporations outrageous tax cuts while increasing taxes on middle-class families. We need to support working families by raising the minimum wage—and all wages by promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively, lowering healthcare costs, providing paid family leave, promoting debt-free college and expanding affordable housing.

DISCRIMINATION: On the Judiciary and Oversight Committees I’m working to expand voting rights; protect freedom of religion while stopping the new argument that businesses have a religious right to discriminate against LGBTQ Americans; protect equal employment rights; stop sexual harassment; and include the disabled. We need strong laws to block violations of civil rights and civil liberties of the people.

STUDENT LOANS: I support efforts to provide relief to the millions of Americans struggling with student loan debt, including HR 2186, HR 770, HR 2648, and HR 1070. Also, as Representative of tens of thousands of dedicated public servants, I am working to defend and strengthen the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 5

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

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

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

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

Issues

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

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

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

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

Candidates

Vote for 1

Laura Morton

Judicial

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

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

Campaign Email: lauramortonforjudge@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (443) 408-8529

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been a trial attorney for over 26 years, primarily in Carroll County. I have extensive experience in family, traffic, criminal, worker’s compensation, personal injury, and administrative appeals. I have handled thousands of cases, especially in the areas of criminal and family law which make up the vast majority of cases heard in the Circuit Court which is why I am the best candidate.

COURT NEEDS: The number of individuals accessing the court system who cannot pay for legal counsel in civil cases is steadily increasing. These individuals have important issues before the court, often in complicated cases such as custody. We need to have more

attorneys providing pro bono legal services and more educational community outreach to teach these individuals how to effectively present their cases.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Addressing mental health and addiction issues is important to reduce recidivism rates. Expanding the availability of addiction and mental health treatment not only reduces the burden on the court system but also makes our community a better place. We also need to do a better job of helping those transitioning from jails and prisons back into the community for more positive outcomes.

DISCRIMINATION: Inherent biases are best combatted by having diversity on the bench. Different perspectives are important if the judicial system is to provide justice for all. Judges with different backgrounds can work together to help each other understand underrepresented communities. Judges need to be willing to undergo training that helps them know and overcome their own biases and truly keep an open mind.

Richard R. Titus

Judicial

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

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

Campaign Email: richard@VoteJudgeTitus.com

Campaign Phone: (410) 596-1087

QUALIFICATIONS: I am the only candidate with 3+ years of judicial experience. Tough, but fair, I am endorsed by the Sheriff and State's Attorney and enjoy broad support from the legal and law enforcement communities for common-sense rulings. Upon scrutinizing my 30-year legal career, the Judicial Nominating Commission found me highly qualified to be appointed by Gov. Hogan confirming that experience does matter.

COURT NEEDS: Public perception must be improved as many individuals complain about poor treatment received in the court system. Customer service matters and the judiciary is no exception. The public deserves to have faith in a fair and efficient judiciary respectful of citizens' rights. I do my part by starting court on time, ruling promptly, issuing appropriate sentences and improving treatment of jurors.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Recidivism is best addressed by early reentry, treatment, and diversion programs for nonviolent offenders. For example, Early Intervention programs aim to modify criminal behavior for first-time/nonviolent offenders through education and treatment. Work Release programs permit employment during incarceration. Employment along with effective abuse treatment has shown promise in reducing recidivism.

DISCRIMINATION: Discrimination is best addressed by following the oath of office that requires any judge, to the best of their skill and judgment, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, to diligently and faithfully execute the office they hold. A trial judge must apply, not create, the laws enacted by the Legislative branch while following controlling legal precedent of applicable Maryland and Federal appellate courts.

Judge, Court of Special Appeals

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 “retention election” every ten years to continue in office. If the incumbent judge is rejected by the voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment.

Issues

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

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

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

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

Court of Special Appeals At-Large Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

E. Gregory Wells
Judicial

No response received by deadline.

Court of Special Appeals Circuit 3 Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

Kathryn Grill Graeff
Judicial

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.

REPEAT 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.

Carroll County Board of Education

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

HOW ELECTED: The Carroll County Board of Education is comprised of five elected members, The law provides for the County Commissioners to serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of the Board. The Superintendent serves as the Board's Executive Officer, Secretary and Treasurer; and a student representative is selected each year by the Carroll County Student Government Association.

TERM: 4 years

Issues

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

Vote for 2

Stephanie R. Brooks

Nonpartisan

Campaign Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/StephanieBrooksforCarrollCountyBoardofEducation>

Campaign Email: brooks.for.ccps.boe@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (443) 375-0070

QUALIFICATIONS: Over the last several years I have served on the CCPS Community Advisory Council where I am the current chair. I have also served on the CCPS Security Advisory Council and have held multiple PTA board positions. Aside from my work with CCPS, my professional background includes both people and project management as well as regulatory, legal and compliance adherence.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: Ultimately I want the best environment for our students. This includes buildings that are free from deterioration, teachers who feel supported, up to date technology for everyone and class sizes that are conducive to teaching and learning. The biggest factor in the budget is working with the County Commissioners to secure funding for the things that are needed.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: While bench-marking is able to give us an overall view of how the County is doing, it is not the only thing that should be looked at. I would much prefer to have meaningful assessments of students that can be shared with parents in an understandable format. I'd rather have meaningful conversations about a students strengths and weaknesses and work on a plan to ensure their success.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: As a graduate of the Career & Technology Center I fully support the programs offered there. I will support the review of the programs for any modifications or additions that may be needed in order to support students to ensure they have the appropriate skill sets to be competitive upon graduation.

SCHOOL SAFETY: There should be a zero tolerance policy on all of these things. However, we should also make sure that every student has the appropriate resources available to them and that if they are in a gang or are bullying other students or have a substance abuse problem, there should be oversight of those students in a program to address these items. The school also needs to work closely with the parents.

PARTNERSHIPS: I would really like to see an "adopt a school" program put in place where local businesses can adopt a school and meet with that schools administration and community to see how they can help support them.

PRIORITIES: I really want to make sure that students are supported fully which would include looking at the role of counselors in the school and specifically adding additional counselors to elementary schools where 1 counselor could be responsible for 650+ students. Along those lines, making sure that we incorporate more tools and resources to help students learn how to manage emotions and promote well being.

Virginia R. Harrison

Nonpartisan

Campaign Website: http://NA

Campaign Facebook: http://NA

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/NA

Campaign Instagram: NA

Campaign Email: Jennyruth01@hotmail.com420

Campaign Phone: (410) 446-6275

QUALIFICATIONS: my experiences that I gained during my nine (9) years of service as a board member prepared me to make the difficult financial, operational, and personnel related decisions the board will have to make. I have Represented the CCPS system on the Maryland Association of Board of Education (MABE). I have served on the boards of community - based organizations such as the Boys & Girls club.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: My priorities are teachers first, retention second, school building third and Class size # 4

STANDARDS AND TESTING: To be totally honest this is a very difficult question. All I can say is that we continue to work as hard as possible with the standards and testing to see that our kids get the best education we can give them. With each state not being funded the same And having the demographics are different. It's work in progress.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: I strongly support the career and tech program and The partnership with our community to get jobs for our kids that choose not to go or can not afford to go college. We have a work study program with our partnerships.

SCHOOL SAFETY: For substance abuse we will work closely with our community leaders such as the police and states attorney to come into our school building and talk with our kids and parents about substance abuse and also talk about the gang problem and bullying. Have Parent in our community to join us.

PARTNERSHIPS: In our community We work as a team. We get to know our business partners. we invite them into our schools to talk about the businesses and why education is important. We show them things that we're doing so they can see our work. We take field trips to their businesses.

PRIORITIES: My priorities are student Achievement, maintaining qualified teachers and communication at all levels what's next is it

Marsha B. Herbert

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Email: herbertforcarrollcountyboe@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (410) 876-2950

QUALIFICATIONS: I am currently a member and Vice President of the Carroll County Board of Education. I retired from the Carroll County Public School System after teaching high school students and coaching sports teams for over 41 years. I am also own Country Hill Farm, a local business that teaches horseback riding lessons. I have the tools and experience needed to lead and produce results for Carroll County.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: Our educators need to receive fair and competition compensation. We need to add more Special Educators, Psychologists/Counselors, and IT support in our Elementary Schools. We need to continue to evaluate each school building to ensure that students have a great learning environment. I support the new construction and renovation of the Career & Tech Center to expand capacity and number of programs.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: I am proud of CCPS' PARCC test results, being 1st in math and 2nd in ELA. We need to increase the % of students reading on grade level by 3rd grade and % of students completing Algebra I by 8th grade. Our Special Education, Gifted & Talented, and classroom educators are doing a great job preparing our students for success, both on tests and in their future.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: Not all students want to or need to attend college, but all students need to graduate with a path to a successful career. The Career and Technology Center provides students with valuable training in the skilled trades and I support its expansion. Youth apprenticeships are a great tool that we need to capitalize on that allow students to earn a salary while learning a trade with a local employer.

SCHOOL SAFETY: We have collaborated with local and state partners to create a new SRO program, offered free classes and trainings, hired a Mental Health Coordinator, budgeted for a School Psychologist, and more to help keep both our students and educators safe. We must continue to offer easily accessible classes and support systems to help our youth in need with any challenge they are facing.

PARTNERSHIPS: During my time on the BOE, CCPS' relationships with our elected officials, county departments, businesses, and the community have never been stronger. These partners support CCPS projects, make donations, and attend events. I look forward to expanding Maryland's youth apprenticeship program, so CCPS students can earn a wage and class credit while they learn a trade with a local business.

PRIORITIES: Carroll County needs to remain a great place to live, work, and raise a family. CCPS needs to increase the quality of education for all students while recruiting, retaining, and providing fair and competitive salaries to educators. CCPS needs to continue be transparent, work collaboratively, and maintain an open dialogue with all stakeholders in the community. I will never vote to close schools.

Donna Sivigny

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/donnaforeducation>

Campaign Email: donnasivigny@comcast.net

QUALIFICATIONS: I have served 3 years on the Carroll County Board of Education, one as Vice President and one as President. I am also currently serving my second term as Board President. However, just being on the Board does not make you qualified. Driving change and getting results is what makes a candidate uniquely qualified. I believe my collaborative leadership style and vision is what differentiates me.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: Here is how I rank my priorities. 1) Student achievement along with multiple pathways for success. 2) Educator and Support staff compensation. This ties into retention. 3) Class size. Class sizes for CCPS has been generally in alignment with other counties. 4) School Buildings- CCPS is currently investing heavily in the Career and Tech Center, which will help with multiple pathways.

STANDARDS AND TESTING: A critical component to success in any organization is establishing strong metrics to measure performance. There is an old saying that goes like this... "That which gets measured, gets done." While testing is only one part of the overall education process, it is an important one. Which means that if you believe that the tests are good, than aligning the curriculum with the tests is essential.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: CCPS is poised to make a significant investment in our Career and Technology Center. My hope is that these investments will improve the overall

educational quality, and will provide better and increased access to multiple pathways for learning as our students prepare for college and careers. In addition, we will be expanding the available courses and programs that our students have to choose from.

SCHOOL SAFETY: CCPS has many programs geared towards addressing school safety, bullying, substance abuse and gangs. Over the past two years, CCPS has coordinated closely with local enforcement and developed an SRO Program. In addition we have developed resources and partnerships with local organizations to help those most at risk for substance abuse.

PARTNERSHIPS: Promoting partnerships is all about developing relationships and aligning community with programs and resources. For example, CCPS has an outstanding relationship with our Boys and Girls Club. This is an example of how we provide support for students in need. We also have internships to support our Career and Tech education. Overall, I believe that CCPS has strong ties with our community.

PRIORITIES: By developing a robust Strategic Plan, we have created metrics and targets that staff and the BoE view as priorities. This living document is what drives decision making and pushes the organization towards a continuous improvement culture and downplays status quo actions. All key priorities are embedded in this document. Items in the Plan include Special Ed, Career and Tech and equity elements.

State 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.

- o **For the Constitutional Amendment**
- o **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) and 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. The one exception is that it may add to the budget if it enacts a new revenue source to fund additional items. This is a rare occurrence. In addition, it cannot move funds from one agency to another. Therefore, in practice, the General Assembly can only recommend cuts to state agency budgets recommended by the Governor. 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 other item(s) of the budget are

reduced to pay for the new expenditure. This change would begin with the 2024 Budget bill which is presented to the General Assembly in 2023. At that time, the Governor would be given the authority to veto items added or items increased by the General Assembly.

Arguments in Favor:

- The Maryland Legislature has 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 Session personally and during committee hearings, than they do to influence the Governor or the state agencies when the budget details are negotiated and finalized for presentation.
- For decades, Republican and Democratic legislators have proposed this change while Governors from both major 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?

- o **For the referred law.**
- o **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 gambling if approved through a referendum by a majority of the voters in a general election. In 2020 the General Assembly passed SB 04 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 permissible 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 so 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.

Matching Gift Challenge

We invite you to help the League continue to serve Maryland citizens with the *Voters' Guide* and similar educational efforts.

A member of the League has promised to match each contribution received by November 30, 2020, up to a limit of \$5,000. These contributions are tax-deductible. You may contribute online or by mailing a check.

Donate online: https://www.lwvmd.org/make_donation

Send a check to: League of Women Voters of Maryland
121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B
Annapolis MD 21401

We also invite you to join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our state. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 100 years of experience, Leagues in every state, and local Leagues in 16 of Maryland's counties, the League of Women Voters is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

Phone: 410-269-0232
Mail: 121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B
Annapolis MD 21401
Email: info@lwvmd.org
Website: <http://www.lwvmd.org>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lwvmd

