



# **Prince George's 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](http://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](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

### September 28-30 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Accokeek VFD Training & Activity Center, 16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD, 20607
- Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD, 20613
- Bladensburg High School, 4200 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD, 20710
- Bowie Gymnasium, 4100 Northview Drive, Bowie, MD, 20716
- Deerfield Run School Community Center, 13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD, 20708
- Duval High School, 9880 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD, 20706
- Frederick Douglass High School, 8000 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772
- Friendly High School, 10000 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD, 20744
- High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD, 20705
- Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD, 20785
- Laurel High School, 8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD, 20707
- Northwestern High School, 7000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD, 20782
- Parkdale High School, 6001 Good Luck Road, Riverdale, MD, 20737
- Peppermill Community Center, 610 Hill Road, Landover, MD, 20785
- Prince George's County Board of Elections, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo, MD 20774
- Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772
- Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex, 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, MD, 20613
- Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD, 20744
- Suitland Community Park School Center, 5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD, 20747
- The Pavilion at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center, 8500 Paint Branch Drive, College Park, MD, 20740
- Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD, 20785
- Westphalia Community Center, 8900 Westphalia Road, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774

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

- Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD, 20715
- Bowie State University, James Gym, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD, 20715
- Cedar Heights Community Center, 1200 Glen Willow Drive, Capitol Heights, MD, 20743
- Central High at Forestville, 7001 Beltz Drive, Forestville, MD, 20747
- Charles H. Flowers High School, 10001 Ardwick Ardmore Road, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774
- Crossland High School, 6901 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, MD, 20748
- Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD, 20770
- FedEx Field, 1600 FedEx Way, Landover, MD, 20785
- Glenn Dale Community Center, 11901 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale, MD, 20769
- John E. Howard Community Center, 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD, 20743
- Largo High School, 505 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774
- Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center, 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774
- Oxon Hill High School, 6701 Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill, MD, 20745

- Potomac High School, 5211 Boydell Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD, 20745
- Rollingcrest Chillum Community Center, 6120 Sargent Road, Hyattsville, MD, 20782
- South Bowie Community Center, 1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie, MD, 20715
- Suitland High School, 5200 Silver Hill Road, Forestville, MD, 20747
- Surrattsville High School, 6101 Garden Drive, Clinton, MD, 20735
- Temple Hills Community Center, 5300 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, MD, 20748

## **Early Voting Sites**

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

- Accokeek VFD Training & Activity Center, 16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD, 20607
- Bowie Gymnasium, 4100 Northview Drive, Bowie, MD, 20716
- Duval High School, 9880 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD, 20706
- Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD, 20785
- Laurel High School, 8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD, 20707
- Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20772
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- The Pavilion at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center, 8500 Paint Branch Drive, College Park, MD, 20740
- Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD, 20785

## **Additional Voting Sites on Election Day**

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

- Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD, 20613
- Bladensburg High School, 4200 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD, 20710
- Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD, 20715
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- Westphalia Community Center, 8900 Westphalia Road, Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774

## 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](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](http://www.donaldjtrump.com)

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

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/realdonaldtrump](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump)

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

No response received by print deadline. See [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

### Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Democrat

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

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/joebiden/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/JoeBiden](https://twitter.com/JoeBiden)

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

**Campaign YouTube:** <http://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](http://www.Jo20.com)

**Campaign Facebook:** [facebook.com/JoJorgensen2020](https://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](http://www.howiehawkins.us)

**Campaign Facebook:** [facebook.com/runhowierun2020](https://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](http://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](http://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 4

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**George E. McDermott**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.georgemcdermott.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/georgemcdermott>.

**Campaign Instagram:** secretjustice.com

**Campaign Email:** georgemcdermott2018@gmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 996-9577

**GOALS:** To Demand Truth The Corporation OFFICERS operating as AGENT'S of the incorporated United States Title 22 USC (Foreign Relations and Intercourse) Chapter 11 identifies all public officials as foreign agents. Title 28 USC 3002 Section 15A states that the United States is a Federal Corporation and not a Government, including the Judiciary Procedural Section. AS A UN-LAW-FULL SHADOW GOVERNMENT

**IMMIGRATION:** Our nation was built on the principle that immigrants were welcome and that there would be a pathway to citizenship throughout history corporate America has prospered using immigrant labor and exploiting them for slave wages. Given that statistics show our agricultural industry cannot survive without. Our hospitality industry we need a pathway to citizenship for our immigrants

**HEALTH CARE:** We need to stop the attack on the affordable care, Social Security, and Medicare and Medicaid which are being ripped off by disreputable corporate interest. Their lawyers and a truly corrupt judicial system and political system that is heavily invested in the corporations to keep the keep them in office. Crackdown on waste fraud and abuse and adopt meaningful legislation say no to fraud.

**ENVIRONMENT:** At 74 years old . I have watched the revolution that is turn this country and this planet into biomedical disaster at the hands of corporate leadership that cares nothing about our planets survival. They just pay off public officials to kill bills that would support saving the planet we need to put the state of emergency to save our planet from corporate greed.

**GUN SAFETY:** My policies ongoing safety or well-known posted of georgemcdermott.com guns don't kill people, people kill people, radicalized people kill even more people yet the American Bar Association keeps putting criminals back on the street to line their pockets with gold and silver responsible government summation must be passed protects Second Amendment rights of citizens.

**ECONOMY:** in 2001. Our national debt was purportedly \$2.5 trillion which would have been offset by \$2.3 trillion is covered to be missing from the accounting records of the Department of defense which was announced on September 10, 2001 was public. The then secretary, Department of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. The accounting documents were the Pentagon and building 47 of the World Trade Center,

**DISCRIMINATION:** Our economy is been destroyed by the current administration and by a president and CEO is putting us trillions of dollars in debt and dividing the country. While spending his time off course is private corporate properties overcharging the treasury for his waste fraud and abuse of taxpayer resources protected by an army of attorneys also ripping off the government Illegal

**STUDENT LOANS:** Student loans student debt makes it impossible for our society to move forward our corporate college system is where about shaking down the students for books

parking education and housing. All profit centers. Yet the quality of education has been done down so much, many leaving college can not find the job because of the poor accreditation and substandard education...?

**Anthony G. Brown**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.anthonypbrown.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/anthonypbrown.maryland>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/anthonypbrownmd4](https://twitter.com/anthonypbrownmd4)

**Campaign Email:** [info@anthonypbrown.com](mailto:info@anthonypbrown.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 743-8760

**GOALS:** I'm running for re-election because I believe we must further strengthen our communities in order to strengthen and support our families. That work begins by creating jobs, building a competitive workforce, modernizing our infrastructure, developing our small business community, and supporting families with access to affordable, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and a clean environment.

**IMMIGRATION:** My strong commitment to comprehensive immigration reform is based on the benefits such reform would bring our nation, our economy, our communities, and our families. We need to pursue policies that unite families and that do not tear them apart. We need to reform our immigration laws so that they are better adapted to the needs of America's economy and workforce in the 21st century global economy.

**HEALTH CARE:** All people have the right to quality, affordable health care. We must do everything we can to protect the ACA, lower the costs of prescription drugs, and protect those with pre-existing conditions. Just as Democrats and Republicans have worked together to strengthen and improve Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, we must do more to lower costs and to increase coverage in our healthcare system.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change is the greatest national security challenge of this century. Science demands that we take bold actions to reduce carbon pollution by at least 50% by 2030. I support initiatives, legislation and specific actions to reduce carbon pollution from power plants, expand the clean energy economy, build a clean energy infrastructure, and cut energy waste in homes, businesses, and factories.

**GUN SAFETY:** We need commonsense gun safety measures, including banning the sale of large ammunition clips, expanding background checks before gun purchases, cracking down on illegal gun trafficking, banning assault weapons that have no other use but to kill large numbers of people quickly, enforcing current gun laws, investing in research around combating gun violence, and investing in mental health services.

**ECONOMY:** We must grow the economy with family-supporting jobs, train and educate the workforce, and support families with greater Infrastructure investments, better trade agreements, stronger collective bargaining rights, expanded career technology education, paid medical and family leave, higher minimum wage, tax credits for caregivers, and equal-pay-for-equal-work.

**DISCRIMINATION:** The greatest challenge we face as a nation are the biases that result in inequalities, disparities, inequities and gaps in our classrooms, prisons, job market and neighborhoods. To address these concerns, I support greater investments in pre-K education, criminal justice reforms and police accountability, more career technology education and affordable housing options, and expanding voting rights.

**STUDENT LOANS:** Whether their path is vocational training, community college, or attending a university, every student must have all the tools at their disposal if we are going to build a brighter future. In Congress, I continue to support providing students, schools and educators more resources, strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, and year-round Pell grants.

# Congressional District 5

## Candidates

Vote for 1

### **Chris Palombi**

**Republican Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.chrispalombi.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/palombiforcongress>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/chrispalombi](https://twitter.com/chrispalombi)

**Campaign Email:** [chris@chrispalombi.com](mailto:chris@chrispalombi.com)

**GOALS:** The divisive politics in our nation's capital has led to the lack of preservation of individual rights and freedoms for all citizens, as well as reckless spending of taxpayers' money. For too long the constituents have been ignored and taken for granted and it is time for a change. We need fresh and invigorating representation not hampered by special interests and national political aspirations.

**IMMIGRATION:** Congress needs to act on improving conditions at our border, to know who is coming in, and to better streamline the process to allow those who wish to enter our nation legally. We live in the greatest nation on Earth. It's no wonder why so many wish to immigrate here seeking the American Dream and a better life. Legal immigration is a huge benefit to our nation.

**HEALTH CARE:** Since passing of the ACA, over regulation has led to sky rocketing costs and lack of options for health insurance coverage. Consumers should have choice in health insurance. Pre-existing conditions need to be covered. Transparency in health care costs will open a competitive market; increasing quality of care while lowering costs will benefit consumers.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Chesapeake Bay and other local waterways are a huge economic and environmental benefit to our area that we need to ensure are protected. It's no secret that a lot of the Bay's pollution comes from surrounding states and needs to be addressed at a federal level. We need innovative approaches (like carbon capture technology) and reasonable trade deals to assist lowering emissions globally.

**GUN SAFETY:** Every American has the right to protect and defend themselves. The right to bear arms shall not be infringed. There are many factors that contribute to gun violence. We need to address mental health as a nation to combat violence. We need to question these medications and side effects.

**ECONOMY:** I am an advocate for free market principles and stand with pro-growth policies. It is the free market that will better promote a healthy competitive economy, and empower individuals to more opportunities and jobs.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I am all for equality of opportunity. If we want to battle discrimination, we need to embrace what Dr. MLK Jr said and judge each individual "by the content of their character" and not put individuals into arbitrary groups. Federal non-discrimination laws should always take into account religious and liberty protections. Liberty for all.

**STUDENT LOANS:** One of the factors that contributes to the skyrocketing costs of higher education and student debt is how federal financial aid has been exploited by Colleges to their benefit. It has contributed to continued raising costs and that's something that needs to be looked into. In regards to college debt forgiveness, and the federal debt at \$23 trillion dollars, we have to ask, 'is it affordable?'

### **Steny H. Hoyer**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.hoyerforcongress.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/hoyerforcongress>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/stenyhoyer](https://twitter.com/stenyhoyer)

**Campaign Email:** [info@hoyerforcongress.com](mailto:info@hoyerforcongress.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 464-5710

**GOALS:** President Trump threatens the basic values and principles of our country. I have been and continue strong opponent of many of his policies. Next Congress, I will continue to work to lower the cost of health care and prescription drugs, act to combat climate change, invest in infrastructure and create good-paying jobs.

**IMMIGRATION:** I support comprehensive immigration reform. I was proud to support legislation to provide a solution for individuals in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). We must also hold the Trump Administration accountable for their xenophobic immigration policies.

**HEALTH CARE:** I was a leader in passing the Affordable Care Act, which has expanded health care coverage to 17 million Americans. I will continue to fight for universal coverage including a public option in the ACA marketplaces, as well as expanding opportunities for those under 65 to buy into existing health programs, such as Medicare. I brought to the Floor legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change is a the most critical crisis we confront. It demands an immediate and global response. I was pleased to bring to the House Floor the Climate Action Now Act, which prohibits funds from being used to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. We must address the role of climate impact as we legislate in many areas, including energy, transportation, housing, and taxes.

**GUN SAFETY:** After countless tragedies, including shootings at the Navy Yard, Great Mills High School, and the Capital Gazette, I was proud to bring to the Floor of the House legislation to provide comprehensive background checks and close loopholes on gun purchases. I also support red flag laws, magazine limits, outlawing bump stops, and other steps to make our communities safer.

**ECONOMY:** This Congress, I voted to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. I was also proud to support legislation that ensures women are paid the same as men when they are doing the same job. I also supported legislation to strengthen labor unions who help to raise wages and benefits for all in our communities, and am fighting to bring down the costs of health care and post-secondary education.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Throughout my career, I have supported legislation that ends discrimination including leading the fight for the Americans with Disability Act. This Congress I supported legislation to address criminal justice reform and to ensure LGBT Americans are protected under our civil rights laws. I am an original member of the Black Maternal Health Caucus to address health disparities for women of color.

**STUDENT LOANS:** I support the College Affordability Act, that will provide relief to current borrowers by allowing lower monthly and total repayments, placing distressed borrowers in income-based repayment plans, letting borrower's default be removed from credit scores, and strengthening oversight of loan servicing. This bill also strengthens the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and broadens eligibility.

## **Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 7**

**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 5

#### **April T. Ademiluyi**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.votejudgeapril.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/electaprilademiluyi>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/aprilademiluyi](https://twitter.com/aprilademiluyi)

**Campaign Email:** [votejudgeapril@gmail.com](mailto:votejudgeapril@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (443) 393-3984

**QUALIFICATIONS:** It is the trials and tribulations that I have gone through that has matured me into a woman who acts with the utmost integrity, courage, and fidelity. My law practice has called upon me to practice many different areas of law to resolve legal issues that plague everyone from low income Maryland residents to the business community earning substantial profits.

**COURT NEEDS:** According to JPI's research, Maryland has the highest incarceration rate of young African American men in the nation. The Baltimore Sun chronicled the journey of a teenage African American male who spent the majority of his teenage years incarcerated for theft of a cell phone. Our traditional system of selecting and retaining Judges is failing the African American community and must change.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** Returning citizens or those convicted of crimes need resources such housing, job training, job opportunities, mental health counseling, and monitoring to ensure a proper and successful transition. The Courts should provide ENCOURAGEMENT and to the extent possible ensure that these resources are available and offered to offenders.

**DISCRIMINATION:** The term length of Judges needs to be reduced and we need competitive fair elections and a more rigorous disciplinary process that will allow Judges, who show a pattern of harmful bias to be removed. There could also be training of Judges on how to set aside any unconscious bias and treat victims with sensitivity, dignity and respect.

#### **Wytonja Curry**

**Campaign Website:** <http://pgcjudges.com/judges-of-prince-george/>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/pgcjudges>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/pgcjudges](https://twitter.com/pgcjudges)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Prior to my judicial appointment, I worked as a trial lawyer my entire 20 year career, representing over 1800 clients and handling cases in 17 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. I tried scores of trials to verdict before juries and more than 300 trials before Judges throughout state and federal courts in Maryland and D.C. This experience has strengthened my familiarity with the judicial process

**COURT NEEDS:** Ensuring equal access to all regardless of background or orientation is a concern. I am a member of the Judicial Education Subcommittee as judicial education is essential. Participation in classes and programs, promoting understanding and recognizing opportunity for court referral to pro-bono recourses, self-represented litigant center and in Prince George's the Family Justice Center help access.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** Encouraging participation, when appropriate, in treatment programs for underlying conditions and circumstances which contribute to recidivism such as substance abuse and mental health issues. The Re-Entry Court Program targeted toward incarcerated individuals, with drug related problems/dependencies and/or mental health issues, Veteran's court and the Teen Court diversion program may also assist.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I am proud to serve the citizens of Prince George's County which are some of the most diverse in the state. Members of the Judiciary must uphold their oath to administer the laws of the State and Constitution fairly and impartially and also must strive to recognize and set aside implicit bias. Continuing education and acknowledgment of implicit and explicit bias is invaluable to combating them.

### **ShaRon M. Grayson Kelsey**

**Campaign Website:** <http://thehonorisallmine.com/>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/VoteJudgeKelsey/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/honsharonkelsey](https://twitter.com/honsharonkelsey)

**Campaign Instagram:** @honsharonkelsey

**Campaign Email:** [kelseylaw4@gmail.com](mailto:kelseylaw4@gmail.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I managed The Kelsey Law Firm and Kelsey Realty, Inc for 25 years. I also served as a Hearing Examiner for the county's school board (2015-2016), as a Commissioner on the Liquor Board (2017-2019) and represented the county with respect to all child abuse and neglect cases. I also served as an adjunct professor for UMUC and as treasurer for Delegate Erek Barron. Complete bio @www.pgcjudges.com.

**COURT NEEDS:** One issue tackled by the court surrounds pro se litigants or those who represent themselves. In an effort to assure fair and equal just for all the Court provides forms and pamphlets of general information on a variety of legal issues, such as domestic violence, family, civil and criminal law. Assisting the public with these tools helps ensure a fair and just system for all.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** Drug use can be a root cause. In these instances, a referral to our existing Adult Drug Court Program is what's needed to employ innovative, judicial supervision with the purpose to decrease drug-related crime and violence, reduce incarceration, provide need-specific treatment and services for substance abusers, and thereby enhance the quality of life for the individual and the community.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I am one of 24 judges, consisting of all genders and a variety of races, nationalities, religions and cultures. Some of our judges were prosecutors, defense, corporate and/ or public interest attorneys. Others served as JAG officers in the military or speak Spanish. With such a rich and diverse bench, we engage in required trainings & impromptu conversations on this important issue regularly.

### **Jared Michael McCarthy**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.pgcjudges.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/keep-judge-jared-mccarthy>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/pgcjudges](https://twitter.com/pgcjudges)

**Campaign Email:** [keepjudgejaredmccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:keepjudgejaredmccarthy@gmail.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Prior to being appointed to the bench after a rigorous appointment and vetting process, I was the Prince George's County Attorney for County Executives Rushern L. Baker, III and Angela Alsobrooks. This position is the chief legal officer for the County Government, and supervises the 35+ attorneys working for the County Government. I represented both the Executive Branch and the County Council.

**COURT NEEDS:** One of the greatest challenges is the lack of affordable legal counsel for private citizens. The Court finds more and more citizens are required to represent themselves in complex civil and family matters. The Court is trying to meet this challenge by providing clinics and other online resources to those who must represent themselves. Additionally, the Clerk's Office makes all forms available.



**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** This is a problem that faces all branches of government. The Courts currently provide a number of specialty programs to work with offenders, such as the Drug, Re-Entry and Veterans courts. All of these programs are designed to reduce recidivism by tackling issues unique to each group through a structured approach that includes regular hearings, curfews, substance abuse treatment and other help

**DISCRIMINATION:** Bias is most prevalent in non-diverse settings. Fortunately, the Circuit Court for Prince George's County is incredibly diverse, being predominately minority female (12 of the 24 judges are African-American females). This means that all of the judges are able to learn from a diverse group of colleagues, to share ideas that come from a variety of backgrounds, and to serve as checks and balances.

### **Cathy H. Serrette**

**Campaign Website:** <http://linktr.ee/JudgeCathySerrette>

**Campaign Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Cathy-H-Serrette-101490191375767/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](http://www.facebook.com/Judge-Cathy-H-Serrette-101490191375767/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/pgcjjudges](https://twitter.com/pgcjjudges)

**Campaign Instagram:** @JudgeCathySerrette

**Campaign Email:** Judge.Cathy.Serrette@gmail.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've extensive judicial experience; teach at Judicial College; lead Model Court for abused and neglected children; co-chair a judicial work group for immigrant children; sit on the Access to Justice Comm & Equal Justice Cmte; led the Family Division; spearheaded the Family Justice Center for victims of dv, sexual assault, human trafficking & elder abuse; co-founded MCIW's Re-entry Conf; & more.

**COURT NEEDS:** Our greatest challenge is ensuring justice for all. On the civil side, we need competent legal representation for all basic needs, which is why I sit on both the Access to Justice Commission and the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. On the criminal side, we need more alternatives to incarceration, restorative justice and diversion programs, and effective re-entry programs.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** We have adult and juvenile Drug Courts, Veterans' Court, Re-Entry Court, and Truancy Reduction Court to provide services to help folks thrive. The expansion of therapeutic jurisprudence and restorative justice could help reduce recidivism, as could increased services, the elimination of barriers to re-entry, and strong community supports.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Fortunately, Prince George's County's judges have varied backgrounds, racially, culturally, gender, and work experience. It is an honor to serve with them. Nonetheless, implicit biases permeate our society. I serve on the Judiciary's Equal Justice Committee to identify and dismantle discriminatory behaviors in all aspects of the Judiciary's functions.

### **Gladys Weatherspoon**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.gladysweatherspoon.com>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/Gladys4Judge](https://twitter.com/Gladys4Judge)

**Campaign Instagram:** @Gladys4Judge

**Campaign Email:** Info@friendsofgladysweatherspoon.com

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 508-0505

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been a criminal defense attorney who has had at least 100 trials for the past 23 years. I was the Deputy Trial Chief of the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia before opening my own practice 15 years ago. I have counseled people through all kinds of cases. Being bilingual, I have been able to explain the system to people who do not speak English.

**COURT NEEDS:** The greatest challenges facing Maryland's court system is diversity of thought. People are treated the exact same way without any thought given to sex, age, race or history. While it takes longer to address people, it's important that when people walk in

the courtroom that they feel they will be treated fairly. Also, judges should visit jails so they know where they are sending people.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** Creative sentencing would help reduce recidivism. Clearly sentences without anything further is not working. This again goes to people being treated the same without giving thought to the individual persons. Second, involving education in sentencing would help. Instead of just handing out sentences we need to incorporate education and awareness to sentencing.

**DISCRIMINATION:** First, diverse judges would help. Judges who have only worked for the state and have not interacted with a diversity of people don't know how to handle different people. Jurors take their cues from judges, and seeing judges respect everyone in the courtroom will also help the risk of bias. When people see that judges are not being biased they will act in kind.

## **Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large**

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans' Court in cases brought before it. The Court, usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent. 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?

### **Candidate**

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

#### **E. Gregory Wells**

No response received by deadline.

## **Prince George's County Board of Education**

**DUTIES:** The BOE shares its responsibilities with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to establish and oversee educational policies; to make decisions on educational, facility, and financial matters; and to appraise the educational and administrative management of the public school system. The CEO implements public school policies and programs. The BOE may not contradict management and oversight of fiscal affairs except by a 2/3 vote of the BOE. The purpose of the Board is two-fold: to raise the academic achievement of students and the level of engagement of parents, students, and community. The BOE consists of 9



elected members, 3 members appointed by the County Executive, 1 member by the County Council, and 1 student member.

**SALARY:** \$18,000 + \$7,000 reimbursement

**TERM:** 4 years; no term limits

**HOW ELECTED:** By popular vote within one of nine districts. Districts 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are elected during Presidential elections; Districts 2, 3, 6, and 9, during Gubernatorial elections. BOE races are non-partisan and all registered voters may vote in both Primary and General elections. The top two vote getters in each race advance to the General election; uncontested races (only one or two candidates) do not appear on the primary election ballot.

### Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** What makes you qualified (in education, community involvement, budget matters, etc.) to serve on the Board of Education?

**DISPARITIES IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES:** PGCPHS high school students were asked for suggestions for the questions for the School Board candidates. Their responses (based on their experiences) indicated a concern for a number of perceived disparities in the delivery of services, programs, use of ineffective teachers, and adequate facilities within the system. How would you address these disparities so that students and parents do not feel they are receiving an unequal education?

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** Given that the stated purpose of the Board of Education is to raise the academic achievement of students, where would you begin in your efforts to improve the academic performance in all PGC schools, in order to reduce the drop out rate, and raise PGCPHS from near the bottom of all public schools in Maryland?

**ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY:** How can the Board of Education foster better collaboration among parents, school staff and the community?

**BUDGET FACTORS:** Prioritize the factors you will weigh when making budget decisions.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** Which programs that PGC schools put in place have addressed the achievement gap of our minority students? Have they have been effective? Why or why not?

**OTHER SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES:** What successful practices in other Maryland school systems and/or in other states should be put in place PGC Schools?

## Board of Education District 1

### Candidate

Vote for 1

**David H. Murray**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.davidhmurray.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/davidhmurray>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/davidhmurray](https://twitter.com/davidhmurray)

No response received by deadline.

## Board of Education District 4

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Shayla Adams-Stafford**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.shayla4schoolboard.com>

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 905-7734

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have spent my entire career focused on issues of educational equity. I began teaching over 10 years ago in North Carolina using project-based learning. While there, I obtained my National Board Teaching Certification. I then moved to Maryland where I worked in DCPS and became an award-winning educator and instructional coach, speaking at the White House on behalf of teachers using project based learning in urban settings. I now travel nationally training teachers in best practices.

**DISPARITIES IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES:** Innovative programming should be expanded and not clustered at a few schools to provide greater access for all students. Additionally, I believe our top priority should be the recruitment and retention of the best teachers. This includes providing opportunities for teacher leadership, and raises in teacher pay. We must provide supports for teachers that are not certified to achieve their credentials. The school system should prioritize renovations in schools with mold and other unsafe conditions.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** Curriculum and Instruction are my passions: all students need access to high quality, rigorous instruction. In fact, when we do not give students on grade level work, we widen the achievement gap. Studies show that students of color are three times LESS likely to receive on grade level work (TNTP). Teachers need training in culturally responsive teaching practices that will enable them to meet students where they are and adapt to distinct learning needs.

**ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY:** To begin we need to prioritize every school in our county having a PTSA. Many schools do not have one and it is difficult for parents and guardians to get updated information from the school. More importantly, I think we need to work to support schools in executing home visits. Home visits can help create trust between schools and families and set forth collective hopes for students academically. This is proven to improve parental involvement in neighboring districts.

**BUDGET FACTORS:** How does this decision impact our most vulnerable students and families? Does this item contribute to wasteful spending? ( program duplication, ineffective program etc.) Does this item present ethical issues? How does this further our mission of advancing teaching and learning?

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** Community Schools program- This program has gotten off to a good start but needs full funding. Parent liaisons should be paid as full time employees, not contractors. Math and Reading Specialists - the district has made efforts to provide more literacy supports in earlier grades, but this is not available in every school. Again, we need to focus on ALL students having access to high quality instruction and curriculum at all times.

**OTHER SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES:** Home Visit/ Project-Based Learning /Expeditionary Learning/ Place Based Learning/Montessori Programs/ Parent Academies/,Delayed start for regular professional development/Community Schools with full wrap around services - i.e. health information, housing, workforce development, open after hours/Full commitment to restorative practices within schools and Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems ( i.e. yoga vs detention, incentives for positive behavior and community building) /Teacher Leadership.

**Bryan M. Swann**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.swannforpgcps.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/SwannForPGCPS>

No response received by deadline.

# Board of Education District 5

## Candidate

Vote for 1

**Raaheela Ahmed**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.raaheela.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/raaheelaahmed>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/raaheelaahmed](https://twitter.com/raaheelaahmed)

**Campaign Instagram:** @raaheela

**Campaign Email:** [citizensforraaheela@gmail.com](mailto:citizensforraaheela@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 245-0941

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a former federal financial consultant, I know budgets well. As a life-long Prince Georgian, recent product of PGCPs, and current incumbent on the Board of Education, I know our schools well. Over the years, I've knocked on over 12,000 doors to better understand the needs of our students and staff. I am proud to be a strong advocate and activist for our community on the Board.

**DISPARITIES IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES:** Holding school system officials accountable to the changes needed and actions promised is my modus operandi. I've successfully fought to address our crumbling infrastructure (solidifying millions of additional dollars for maintenance), saving programs that work (AP testing funding for students), and exposing injustices within our school district (fraudulent graduation rates)

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** I have been, and will continue to be, an advocate for lowering class sizes, decreasing/consolidating standardized testing, adopting restorative practices in all of our schools, supporting community schools, ensuring adequate special education programming, and having active parent and community engagement. These factors are integral in ensuring the academic achievement of all our students.

**ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY:** We need to dissolve the barriers to entry that lead folks to giving up on the school system: stringent processes for volunteering, inept customer service (at times), unclear communications, and bureaucracies in system operations. As the system is building a culture of transparency, inclusion and service, collaboration can grow and thrive.

**BUDGET FACTORS:** In making any budget decision, I pose this question to myself: what value does this add to the students of PGCPs? If it is not leading to the success of students, it is not a priority to me. In the case of competing priorities, I think about the need for that change, the meaning it would hold for the community, and its ultimate effect on the shift towards a better PGCPs.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** Literacy coaches, community schools, international and evening high schools, home visits, extra-curricular activities, and mentorships programs are all in place. Their effectiveness relies on the people that operate them. The district's biggest move in closing the achievement gap is not only in establishing good programs, but in finding the right people to run them, from the ground up.

**OTHER SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES:** There are so many practices PGCPs can and should incorporate, like establishing financial literacy as a graduation requirement, encouraging civic engagement (via participatory budgeting and/or making it an excused absence), native language learning of technical subjects like math and science (for ESOL students), and increasing mental health specialists at schools.

## Board of Education District 7

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### Alexis Nicole Branch

##### Nonpartisan

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/alexisnbranch>

**Campaign Instagram:** @alexisnbranch

**Campaign Email:** brancha.pg7@gmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 755-2230

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I obtained my Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Bennett College in 2019. Where I also served as the Student Government President, and assisted my institution in raising 8.5 million dollars in 50 days. I also worked with a non profit called IMPACT-SE in Jerusalem, Israel where I advocated and conducted research into discrimination, racism, and

**DISPARITIES IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES:** No response received by deadline.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** No response received by deadline.

**ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY:** No response received by deadline.

**BUDGET FACTORS:** No response received by deadline.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** No response received by deadline.

**OTHER SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES:** No response received by deadline.

#### Kenneth F. Harris, II

##### Nonpartisan

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.kennethfharris.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Political-Candidate/Kenneth-Harris-For-School-Board-113845083603702/>

**Campaign Instagram:** @Kennyfharris

**Campaign Email:** kennyfharris@gmail.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** For over a decade, I have been involved in the field of STEM. I started an internship in the industry when I was 16 years old. Since then I have gained extensive exposure to managing large budgets, working with international partners, & completing major projects. Outside of my everyday job, I work to campaign diversity in this field, to ensure that black & brown students are represented. I do this by constantly visiting classrooms & developing programs with major corporations to create pathways.

**DISPARITIES IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES:** District 7 has been one of the most overlooked areas in the county. This includes aging school buildings and outdated technology and chromebooks. I will fight for our district and our children to get what they deserve. Some of our most struggling schools year after year are those often staffed with first year teachers, uncertified teachers, and new principals. I will be open and accessible as a board member to meet and address the issues of both students and parents.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** It has been proven that the utilization of mentors & career professionals have had a positive impact on academic performance & drop out rate. One of my goals would be to tap into the alumni network within Prince George's urging my fellow career professionals to join a mentorship program, do a classroom visit, or adopt a classroom. Having a visual representation of your future career is a huge morale boost & encouragement for students. If elected I will immediately meet with the superintendent,

**ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY:** One of my goals would be to target those parents/guardians who work non traditional hours but still wish to be involved in their child's' education. Most importantly we can be accessible & responsive. I will be available to meet with parents/community/staff virtually or in person to get the job done. We also need to actual listen to the community. Currently the board holds public

meetings after the decisions are already made. Board members & the administration don't take into account prior to

**BUDGET FACTORS:** Student access to technology (available resources). Giving priority to schools with greater percentages of students below the poverty line. I will prioritize the classroom, central office continues to grow while classrooms are underfunded.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** PGCPs has put no succinct plan in place to address the achievement gap. This is why year after year we see the same schools & groups performing similarly. We have to act differently if we want different results. I will aggressively fund universal preschool & target pre-3rd grade reading proficiency.

**OTHER SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES:** Providing additional resources to struggling schools. Paying teachers more, & paying teachers more for going above & beyond. Ensure that our teaching force accurately reflects the demographics of our students. Targeting early elementary reading proficiency.

## **Board of Education District 8 Candidates**

Vote for 1

**Edward Burroughs, III**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.edwardburroughs.com>

No response received by deadline.

**Gary Lee Falls**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.fallsvoter.com/homepage-html.php>

No response received by deadline.

## **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.

# Local Ballot Questions

## Prince George's County Question A

### **BOND ISSUE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES BONDS**

AN ACT enabling the County to borrow money and issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$178,150,000 to finance the design, construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, renovation, relocation, rehabilitation, or repair of, Public Works and Transportation Facilities (including roads and bridges, parking lots and maintenance facilities), including the acquisition and development of sites therefor, the architectural and engineering services incident thereto, and the acquisition and installation of necessary fixed permanent equipment therefor, as defined therein.

## Prince George's County Question B

### **BOND ISSUE LIBRARY FACILITIES BONDS**

AN ACT enabling the County to borrow money and issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$28,829,000 to finance the design, construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, renovation, relocation, rehabilitation or repair of Library Facilities, including the acquisition and development of sites therefor, the architectural and engineering services incident thereto, and the acquisition and installation of necessary fixed permanent equipment therefor, as defined therein.

## Prince George's County Question C

### **BOND ISSUE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES BONDS**

AN ACT enabling the County to borrow money and issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$44,477,000 to finance the design, construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, renovation, relocation, rehabilitation, or repair of, Public Safety Facilities (including Fire Department Facilities), including the acquisition and development of sites therefor, the architectural and engineering services incident thereto, and the acquisition and installation of necessary fixed permanent equipment therefor, as defined therein.

## Prince George's County Question D

### **BOND ISSUE COUNTY BUILDINGS BONDS**

AN ACT enabling the County to borrow money and issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$133,000,000 to finance the design, construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, renovation, relocation, rehabilitation or repair of County Buildings, including the acquisition and development of sites therefor, the architectural and engineering services incident thereto, and the acquisition and installation of necessary fixed permanent equipment therefor, as defined therein.

## Prince George's County Question E

### **BOND ISSUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACILITIES BONDS**

AN ACT enabling the County to borrow money and issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$121,714,000 to finance the design, construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, renovation, relocation, rehabilitation or repair of Community College Facilities, including the acquisition and development of sites therefor, the architectural and engineering services incident thereto, and the acquisition and installation of necessary fixed permanent equipment therefor; as defined therein.



## 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.

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**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.

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