



League of Women Voters[®] of the Mid-Shore
Serving Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties

2020 Presidential General Election Guide for Caroline County

November 3, 2020

[last updated October 1, 2020]

About this *Voters' Guide*

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore and covers all races and their candidates appearing on the 2020 Presidential Election ballot for Caroline County residents. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. During Presidential Elections, the national League invites candidates for president to participate in the *Voters' Guide* based on specified criteria (see *President of the United States* section for details). Local Leagues invite all candidates for state or local office who filed with the State Board of Elections to submit information about their candidacy to our web-based VOTE411 system.

All invited candidates were asked to provide their campaign contact information and their responses to a series of questions posed for each office. Candidates for president were limited to 750 characters for each response while state and local candidates were limited to 400 characters. Responses shown are what candidates entered up to the stated limit. All candidate responses appear as written and are included in VOTE411 in their entirety. All responses provided to the questions are included in this *Guide*; however, only the candidate website, if available, is included here for contact information. Go to [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to see all candidate-submitted information.

The League offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare for participation in the 2020 Presidential General Election.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. This *Guide* is for the benefit of individual voters and should not be marked by others for organizations or individual voters. Material from the *Guide* may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission of the League of Women Voters.

The League assumes no liability for errors or omissions. The candidates' answers in the *Guide* appear as submitted. Only candidates whose names are on the 2020 general election ballot are included in this *Guide*.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose membership is open to all persons at least 16 years old. Its mission is to encourage the informed participation of voters in the democratic process. The League promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in their government.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org) and [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

The League thanks all candidates who submitted answers to our questions and our generous donors who made this *Guide* possible.

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Election Day is
Tuesday, November 3, 2020
 7 am – 8 pm

**Voting will be primarily by mail; only
 four vote centers will be open.**

Voter Registration Deadline
 Tuesday, October 13, 2020

**You may register to vote at an in-person
 voting location during Early Voting and
 on Election Day:**
 contact your local Board of Elections office
ahead of time for details

Three Ways to Vote

1. **VOTE BY MAIL** now thru Tues, Nov 3
2. **VOTE EARLY** at the early voting location from Mon, Oct 26 thru Mon, Nov 2, daily from 7 am to 8 pm
3. **VOTE ON ELECTION DAY** Tues, Nov 3 from 7 am to 8 pm

Vote by Mail

To vote by mail, you must apply for a mail-in ballot. To [request an application](#), either call your local Board of Elections office (see below), download and print one, or apply online. You will need to specify how you want to receive your ballot: by mail, fax, or email (internet delivery). **Your application must be received by Tuesday, Oct 13.**

If you chose to receive your ballot by email, you will receive an email with a link that will allow you to print and mail your ballot.

If you chose to receive your ballot by U.S. Mail, follow the instructions that come with your ballot and return it in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Use black ink to mark your ballot. Put your ballot in the return envelope, seal it, and sign the envelope (do not sign the ballot).

Return your mail-in ballot on or before Election Day, Nov 3: mail it before 5 pm Nov 3 so it will be postmarked by Nov 3 or it will not be counted. Or you can take it to a vote center or drop it in a drop box before 8 pm Nov 3.

Two Drop-Box Locations

Drop boxes are available now at the following locations:

Caroline County Health & Public Services Building, 403 S. 7th St, Denton MD
General James F. Fretterd Community Center, 107 S. 4th St, Denton MD

Vote in Person Early Voting

Monday, Oct 26 - Monday, Nov 2
 7 am – 8 pm

You can vote early at this new location during Early Voting:

***General James F. Fretterd Community Center**, 107 S. 4th St, Denton MD ***New location**

Vote in Person Election Day

Tuesday, Nov 3, 7 am – 8 pm

New this Election

**You can vote on Election Day, but only
 at the following three Vote Centers**
 (vote at **any** of these centers within
 Caroline County)

Three Vote Centers for Caroline County

Greensboro VFC Community Hall, 13781 Greensboro Rd, Greensboro MD
General James F. Fretterd Community Center, 107 S. 4th St, Denton MD
Preston Fire Hall, 3680 Choptank Rd, Preston MD

Contact your local office of the State Board of Elections for other information about registering to vote, voting locations, change of address, and any other questions you may have about the voting process.

Caroline County Board of Elections

Health and Public Services Building
 403 S. Seventh Street, Suite 247
 Denton MD 21629-1335
 Allison Murphy, Election Director
 410-479-8145, Fax: 410-479-5736
www.carolinemdelections.org
 Email Address: election@carolinemd.org



HOW TO USE THIS *GUIDE*

Read this *Guide* with your sample or Mil-in ballot in hand and mark your sample ballot accordingly.

Take your sample ballot with you when you vote as **you are not permitted to use electronic devices, such as smart-phones, tablets, and computers, inside vote centers.**

Pay attention to the number of votes you can cast for each race; **checking more than the maximum allowed will invalidate your vote for that race.**

Check both sides of your ballot for additional races.

We have included write-in candidates known at the time of our publication deadline; however, **write-in candidates can file until Oct 19 to be included in the official vote count.** We recommend you check the lists of certified write-in candidates *listed in your sample ballot, at your local election board office, and posted at all vote centers to verify certified candidates.*

Only candidate information available at the time of our publication deadline is included here; for more up-to-date information on candidate responses, we recommend you check [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org).

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*.

All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. 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](https://vote411.org).

QUESTIONS

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

No response received by print deadline;
check [VOTE411.org](https://votefor411.org).

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
Democratic
Campaign Website: <http://joebiden.com/>

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

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

Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker
Green
Campaign Website: www.howiehawkins.us

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 District 1

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

QUESTIONS

GOALS: Why are you running for this office?

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

HEALTH CARE: Would you vote to continue the Affordable Care Act as it is, expand it, or eliminate it? Please explain.

ENVIRONMENT: What should be the federal government's role in addressing national and global environmental concerns?

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Andy Harris
Republican Party
Campaign Website:
<http://www.andyharris.com>

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>

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.

Judicial Offices

All candidates for the Judicial Offices were asked to respond to the following:

QUESTIONS

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?

Judge, Court of Appeals Circuit 1

DUTIES: The Court of Appeals is the highest court in the State (commonly called the Supreme Court in other states and at the federal level). In most cases the court may choose whether or not to hear an appeal from a lower court, but it is required by law to hear cases involving the death penalty, legislative redistricting, removal of certain officers, and certifications of questions of law. The Court is composed of seven judges, with one elected from each of seven judicial circuits.

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

BASE SALARY: \$191,433

HOW ELECTED: Members of the Court are initially appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Subsequently, they run for office on their records, unopposed. If voters reject a judge's retention in office or there is a tie vote, the office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge remains in office for a ten-year term.

CANDIDATES

Vote Yes or No for Continuance in Office

Brynja M. Booth

No response received by print deadline;
check [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

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.

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

BASE SALARY: \$178,633

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.

CANDIDATES

Vote Yes or No for Continuance in Office

E. Gregory Wells

No response received by print deadline;
check [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Judge, Court of Special Appeals Circuit 1

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.

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

BASE SALARY: \$178,633.

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.

CANDIDATES

Vote Yes or No for Continuance in Office

Christopher B. Kehoe

QUALIFICATIONS: I've had the honor and privilege of serving as the Eastern Shore's representative on the Court of Special Appeals for 11 years. Before that, I was a lawyer on the Eastern Shore for 30 years. For 40 years plus, my wife and I have lived on the Shore and have raised our family here. I'm asking to continue to serve the Eastern Shore and the State to the best of my abilities. Thank you.

COURT NEEDS: Short term: Adjusting court operations in light of COVID-19. Long term: Improving public confidence in the courts by treating all people with dignity and respect, listening to both sides of each case, knowing the law and applying it fairly, and always keeping in mind that our decisions affect real people. On the whole, Maryland judges do these things well but we must always strive to do better.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Expand problem-solving courts like veterans and mental health courts. These give people the help they need to get out of and stay out of the criminal justice system. In 2016, Governor Hogan approved the Justice Reinvestment Act to reduce some prison sentences, avoid incarceration in some cases, and use the savings to fund recidivism-reduction programs. Courts play a critical role in this effort.

DISCRIMINATION: It's impossible to address this complex issue in 50 words. Judges try their best to be fair. Implicit bias causes decisions to be influenced by ingrained assumptions, often about race and gender. Maryland judges are aware of how bias affects judicial decisions and receive

training to address it but there is always room for improvement. Diversity among judges can decrease implicit bias.

Board of Education

DUTIES: Caroline County has a "hybrid" Board of Education with 2 members appointed by the Governor and 3 members elected from Caroline County. Terms are staggered. In 2020 two board members will be elected from the County. The Board of Education sets policy and oversees Caroline County Public Schools.

TERM: Four years; no term limit.

BASE SALARY: \$3,000 annual salary

HOW ELECTED: Board members are elected from districts.

QUESTIONS

BACKGROUND: Please describe how your training and experience prepare you for the duties of this office.

SAFETY: What policies are in place or should be added to address student bullying and violence directed against other students and/or against teachers?

SCHOOL READINESS: How do you propose to support pre-school education to prepare our children for success in first grade?

STUDENT RETENTION: What programs or policies do you advocate for encouraging at-risk teenagers to remain in the school system?

CITIZENSHIP: What steps do our schools need to take to ensure that our children grow to become civic-minded adults who

participate, understand and support the foundational principles of our democracy?

PRIORITIES: What are the top three education needs that should be addressed by the School Board over the next four years?

Board of Education District 1

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Donna Louise DiGiacomo

BACKGROUND: I am a ten-year veteran of the U.S. Navy where I learned leadership and team work skills. I served two tours overseas where I met a variety of people and learned the importance and art of communication. I recently retired after 20+ years of public-school teaching which gives me real life experience/knowledge of educational issues today.

SAFETY: Bullying needs to be taken seriously and should NEVER be considered a "right of passage" in any circumstance. Adults need to lead by example. Students see adults being bullies and that sends a very harmful message. When it occurs, it needs to be dealt with appropriately. The currently laws and procedures need to be followed and administrators need to be held accountable for enforcing them.

SCHOOL READINESS: I would support funding for head start and preschool programs for ALL students. I would also encourage programs that allow children to be children. We need to teach children to learn that education is important and enjoyable. More teaching, more learning, less testing,

and less stress. We need programs that bring all stake holders together for the benefit of our children.

STUDENT RETENTION: First off, one size does NOT fit all. The current educational paradigm more or less believes that since all students take the same test, all students need to learn the same thing. We need more hands on and life skill classes. We need programs that address the real-life needs of students who don't necessarily fit the average norm. We need to talk to the students, ask THEM what they need.

CITIZENSHIP: Just like with bullying, the adults need to teach by example. Show students what a productive citizen looks like. We can bring back Civics classes and/or require Contemporary Issues, but ultimately, we need to make it real . Students need to be held accountable for their actions. They need to learn about consequences. This is an issue that requires all aspects of the community to work together.

PRIORITIES: Teacher recruitment and retention – it is imperative that we find and keep qualified teachers to provide our students with the best education possible. Work together – students, teachers, administrators, family, community – instead of “us against them”, we need to remember that we are here for the students. Climate – we need clean and healthy buildings that promote pride, respect, and learning.

Bryan C. Ebling

BACKGROUND: I'm a lifelong resident of Caroline County and a graduate of our public school system, as are my children. I recently retired as the Director of Emergency Services of Caroline County. I bring a wealth of experience in leadership, budgeting and

administration. I've served my community my whole life and I'm seeking ways to expand my community service.

SAFETY: Bullying and violence against students, or anyone involved in the education cannot be tolerated. Teaching and sharing methods to address bullying and teaching students how to cope with differences appropriately should be a large part of everyday life in the school setting. However, when this falters, schools should have the ability to address the issue in a fair and expedient fashion. .

SCHOOL READINESS: I support all day 4 year-old pre-school programs including additional opportunities for families that exceed the current maximum income allowance to enroll their children in pre-K. I believe it is important that we give our youngest citizens the tools they need for success in Kindergarten and First Grade.

STUDENT RETENTION: I believe we should incorporate positive mental health promotion into the classrooms. This includes creating an environment where children want to come to school and help them build upon his/her strengths. This helps foster self-efficacy and high self-esteem. When these needs are met, risky behaviors lower and academic success improves.

CITIZENSHIP: Consideration should be given to an expanded course of study that teaches students the “foundational principles of our democracy” with exposure to the principles throughout their K-12 education. At minimum the opportunities provided should include an introduction to the many civic minded businesses, community leaders and organizations that make our community unique.

PRIORITIES: Ensure our graduating seniors are college and or career ready. Our schools should be safe from threats that interrupt

learning. School staff and students should be prepared to act appropriately when a man-made or natural threat occurs. Preparing our youngest learners for the K-12 learning environment. Making certain our young learners have the KSA needed to be successful entering school.

David Porter – write in

No response received by print deadline; check [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Board of Education District 2

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Richard P. Barton

BACKGROUND: My professional experience includes state agency directorship and County Administrator duties that featured many of the same management and leadership work performed by the public school system. My current CEO position at international education foundation also includes many similar areas of service. This work included leading a team of diverse employees over a wide geographical area.

SAFETY: Zero tolerance is essential. Also, there must be a culture of reporting, enabling the sharing of issues and incidents. One program that features inclusion and creates a non-bullying atmosphere is the Special Olympics Unified Sports program. Programs like that should be expanded and

encouraged in schools.

SCHOOL READINESS: Encouraging the partnership of the school system with private day care pre-school programs can help prepare children. Sharing knowledge and expertise is a good way to help. The pre-K programs in the school system are an important preparation method. Encouraging parents to engage in reading programs for their preschool children is essential.

STUDENT RETENTION: Mentoring programs help at-risk students along with programs of activity to offer greater engagement. Sports and recreation help with this. Tutoring is also important. Engagement of the parents is important. Most of all, engaging students at a younger age, gaining their complete involvement in school is key. Reading programs at a young age leads to more dedicated teen students.

CITIZENSHIP: Meaningful service learning is vital to helping students connect positively to the community. Also, inviting service organizations and other community leaders to visit the schools helps expose students to a wider world around them. Finally, schools should include objective political science as part of the curriculum at every level of education. Students should know about democracy.

PRIORITIES: 1) Effective and efficient budgeting, including the Kirwan Commission potential future actions. 2) Selection of the best candidates as teachers and administrators and that they maintain their skills. Having good people in the right positions is the key to success. 3) Management of healthy and safe education during and after the pandemic crisis. These challenges will not disappear quickly.

Paul Schoonover

BACKGROUND: My CCPS education prepared me to become an aerospace engineer. After working as an engineer, I went back to school and become a teacher. I taught for 14 years, teaching: Tech Ed, Physics, Math, Finical Lit and Theatre. Now I am a business owner and work in entertainment providing event and TV lighting. I would like to use my experiences to provide all students with a fair and equitable education.

SAFETY: Bullying is a ever growing concern in the school system. CCPS has a zero tolerance policy against bullying. This policy needs to be consistently enforced focusing on all forms of bullying with consistent follow through and consequences. The enforcement of this policy requires a partnership between CCPS, local law enforcement and the local judicial system.

SCHOOL READINESS: I will continue to advocate for the preschool and head start programs that are already in place in Caroline County. I would also support a program that would help parents better educate their children at home by providing lessons, instructional materials and training to parents.

STUDENT RETENTION: Our school system needs to create alternative programs that allow students to be educated in environments that best suit their needs to become productive citizens.

CITIZENSHIP: Our students need to be educated about how the government directly affects their lives and how they can participate in the government and the community to implement changes to better their daily lives.

PRIORITIES: My primary goal is to create a fair and equitable school system for all staff

and students that will educate every student by meeting their needs in order to reach their highest potential by addressing the climate with in the school system, how and what is communicated and by revising the educational philosophy of CCPS.

State Ballot Questions

Question 1

Constitutional Amendment
(Ch. 645 of the 2020 Legislative Session)
State Budget Process

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.

(Amending Article II Section 17 and Article III Section 14 and 52 of the Maryland Constitution)

Vote FOR or 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, nor can it move funds from one agency to another. The General Assembly can only recommend cuts to state agency budgets unless it identifies and enacts a new revenue source to fund additional items. Once a budget passes the Senate and House, it becomes law and cannot be changed or vetoed by the Governor.

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

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?

Vote FOR or 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.



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