



# **Calvert County *Voters' Guide* 2020 General Election**

## **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

- Community Resources Building, 30 Duke Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

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

- Calvert High School, 520 Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, MD, 20678
- Huntingtown High School, 4125 Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown, MD , 20639
- Northeast Community Center, 4075 Gordon Stinnett Avenue, Chesapeake Beach, MD, 20732
- Northern High School, 2950 Chaneyville Road, Owings, MD, 20736
- Patuxent High School, 12485 Southern Connector Boulevard, Lusby, MD, 20657
- Southern Community Center, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, MD, 20657

## Early Voting Sites

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

- Community Resources Building, Conference Room 1 (Lower Level), 30 Duke Street, Prince Frederick 20678

## Additional Voting Sites on Election Day

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

- Calvert High School, 520 Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, MD, 20678
- Huntingtown High School, 4125 Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown, MD, 20639
- Northern High School, 2950 Chaneyville Road, Owings, MD, 20736
- Patuxent High School, 12485 Southern Connector Boulevard, Lusby, MD, 20657

## 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](http://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

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

**Campaign Instagram:** 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

**Campaign Instagram:** <http://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

**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

**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 District 5

**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)

## The 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?

## 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. Regarding 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.

## **Circuit Court Judge, 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.

### **The 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 2

**Mark W. Carmean**

No response received by deadline.

**Andrew S. Rappaport**

No response received by deadline.

## Judge, Court of Appeals Circuit 5

**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.

**SALARY:** \$191,433, annual base.

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

**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 10-year term.

### The 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

**Jonathan Biran**

No response received by deadline.

## 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.

### The 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.

## Calvert County Board of Education

**DUTIES:** The Board of Education hires the superintendent and sets the policies that provide a framework for the program of studies. Work sessions focus on comprehensive presentations and discussions about instructional and curricular matters, short-range and long-range planning and associated budgetary issues.

**SALARY:** President \$6,500; Members \$5,500

**TERM:** Four (4) years.

**HOW ELECTED:** Every four (4) years by election on a staggered basis. School board candidates are voted county-wide, so in 2020 each voter will vote for one candidate from each of three districts.

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Why do you feel that you are uniquely qualified to serve on the Board of Education?

**PRIORITIES:** What are your top three priorities as a School Board member?

**SAFETY:** How are you going to address school safety issues?

**RESOURCE EQUITY:** What action would you take to ensure all schools are receiving proper allocation of resources, including adequate teaching faculty, counselors, support staff and learning materials?

**DIVERSITY:** 30% of the student body is minority background while 9% of the teaching staff is minority background. What will you do to better prepare our current teaching staff to meet the needs of our students who come from a diverse background that is different from theirs?

**CIVICS:** What is your opinion of proposed curriculum changes regarding the study of civics?

**DISCIPLINE & REPORTING:** There are new Maryland guidelines for handling student behavior problems and reporting requirements. How are you going to implement these? Should there be changes in the current reporting to the Board of Education on Restraint and Disciplinary incidents? If so, what do you believe should be required?

## District 1

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### Dawn C. Balinski

##### Nonpartisan

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served 2 terms on Bd of Ed & have faced many issues – from the '08 recession to school safety concerns to now a global pandemic. My decisions are based on in-depth research with significant input from teachers, parents & educ professionals. My career in Int'l & Mfg Finance prepared me well in the areas of budget management and organizational structure. Proud parent of 2 PHS graduates.

**PRIORITIES:** In the current health crisis, my priorities are : 1. Safety of students and employees 2. Ensure excellence in delivery of education (which will be virtual in the Fall) 3. Work to avoid layoffs of our dedicated and close-knit staff. Ongoing priorities also include: 4.

Reduce achievement gap & increase diversity of workforce 6. Ensure civility is practiced throughout our system.

**SAFETY:** General safety: We have invested heavily in securing our buildings, installing cameras in all school buildings, training staff & students, partnering with the Sheriff to bring Safety Resource Officers into our schools. Pandemic measures: Due to continued community spread in Md, we have moved to distance learning for most students, with in-person teaching for small populations of our neediest students

**SOURCE EQUITY:** We have taken concrete steps in the past 4 to 6 years to ensure equitable allocation of resources, directing additional funds and specialized staff to schools with the neediest populations. Also, focus is on reducing class sizes whenever possible in the more challenging classrooms. All students grades 3 through 12 have been issued a laptop and we are working to help families without broadband get connected.

**DIVERSITY:** Increase in staff diversity has been in Supt evaluation for years. For last several years, staff has trained to fundamentally understand what 'culturally responsive teaching' is and to identify and eradicate racist behavior in school. We have instituted many programs to teach students to 'Speak up at school' and to understand bias and privilege. All staff in current book study on Anti-Racism.

**CIVICS:** Civics as a subject and as a personal undertaking has really exploded on the scene: Climate Change, Black Lives Matter, Safe Schools, Me Too movement. Students themselves are becoming more civically engaged and classroom curricula are reflecting that. Whether tests or specific content will be legislated remains to be seen. Calvert requires 3 credits of Social Studies to graduate.

**DISCIPLINE & REPORTING:** We rewrote our policy on the use of Restraint & Seclusion, laid down much stricter guidelines and require monthly reporting to ensure compliance. For the general population, we have concentrated on implementing trauma informed practices and restorative justice practices and track our discipline data so that we can identify and address areas where subgroups are disproportionately represented.

**Chad Leo**

**Nonpartisan**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/chad4calvert](https://twitter.com/chad4calvert)

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

**Campaign Phone:** (443) 342-5927

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a recent graduate of CCPS, I know what is working and what's not from first-hand knowledge. As a son of educators, I know why our teachers are fed up with current leadership. With my brothers being students in CCPS, I have insight into our current student body. I've worked with legislators, advocacy groups, and school leaders for 7 years to fight for quality public education for every student.

**PRIORITIES:** My top 3 priorities are school safety, teacher morale, and mental health. Our students deserve to learn in a safe environment, free from fear of school shootings and threats. Furthermore, our teachers deserve to be supported, valued, respected, and paid. Mental health professionals are understaffed, leading to increased issues in the classroom such as bullying and disruptive behavior.

**SAFETY:** School safety is a two-pronged issue requiring both preventative and defensive protection. Society has a mental health problem, and schools should work to address those issues through increased professionals before they escalate. We must also protect our schools, and not let our students be sitting ducks. We need armed resource officers in every school and increased physical protection strategies.

**RESOURCE EQUITY:** We need to do a thorough review of current spending and ensure that we are allocating money to our classrooms, educators, and schools. Money meant to be spent to teach should not be spent on top-level administrative salaries or other superfluous

items. The only way to understand the needs of each school is by going into classrooms, and listening to educators' concerns-- I pledge to do that.

**DIVERSITY:** We need to recruit diverse teachers who can inspire students through their identity and background. Leadership should be making a targeted effort of diverse recruitment, and ensure that those individuals are retained once in CCPS. We must also require that each person who comes into contact with our students participate in effective diversity, racial/ethnic, bias, and inclusiveness coaching.

**CIVICS:** We should work to modernize content, be inclusive of learning strategy, and integrate curriculum throughout each grade level. This can be done without increasing testing or mandated standards and while including teachers and students as a part of the review process. Social studies should not be put on the back burner to other subjects, as it is one of the most relevant topics a student can learn.

**DISCIPLINE & REPORTING:** Teachers should be empowered to manage their classrooms and believed when reporting disruptive behavior. We must first look to rehabilitative practices, such as counseling, support services, or alternative classroom environments, to support troubled students; however, we cannot shy away from corrective punitive measures. I am firmly against empowering misbehavior by evacuating entire classrooms.

## District 2

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Dawn Keen**

**Nonpartisan**

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

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I was raised in Calvert. I am a Child of Deaf Adults, and I understand the impact. I am fluent in sign language. I am aware that trauma holds back. I believe privilege is less tied to race than it is situation. I believe that our republic will only hold together with unified moral principles of honesty and respect for the individual person. I have two children currently attending our schools.

**PRIORITIES:** 1. Return to moral standards which include a return to equality, discipline, and integrity. 2. Reduce expectations which are not aligned with developmental appropriateness & do not enrich the gifted and talented. 3. To invest first in teachers and their empowerment by reducing class sizes and removing interruptive innovation which is one of the major factors in our societal decline.

**SAFETY:** By utilizing local control, setting limits, moral behavioral standards and procedures, and having no tolerance for violence and/or weapons of any kind. By utilizing the grants available for safety which tie back to local control, physical spaces, and cooperation with local police. By encouraging proper parenting skills which make children feel safe and loved, minimizing traumatic impacts.

**RESOURCE EQUITY:** I would uphold my responsibility to be more transparent with the public on how equity policies are discriminatory, and encourage more of a public process to use of resources to reach improved literacy and achievement across all backgrounds for individuals who are ready to learn, and getting community help for those who are not. I believe we should not reduce schools to mental health institutions.

**DIVERSITY:** I would encourage our board and administrators to work to ELIMINATE segregation of statistics by race of people using misaligned and maligned reports. This creates racial divisions that we had improved upon since desegregation. We are all Americans, despite media and social justice warriors redefined term "racism," and subsequently reducing minorities to alleged incompetence.

**CIVICS:** Our civic duty is to understand and participate in our God given rights outlined in our constitution, and to understand, historically, how it has been proven time and time

again that we must stand to protect our individual freedoms from tyranny.

**DISCIPLINE & REPORTING:** Working with my fellow board members, I would seek to utilize my honed analytical skills to realign our data points; returning to honesty and transparency in our reporting and following the code of conduct in admin procedures. Regardless of its impact on our funding, the Kirwin standard reduces morale. The current and proposed state formulas reward failure. We must work to unify and change this.

## **Antoine White**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Antoine.S.White>

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

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 610-3904

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I was born and educated in Calvert County's 2nd school district. Both of my children (son sophomore in college and daughter 3rd grade BAES) were educated in the 2nd district. For over 30 years I've had collaboration, volunteered, and/or worked in just about every school in Calvert County. This has allowed me to sustain solid relationships with CCPS, Social Services, Churches, and residents.

**PRIORITIES:** I plan to value parents. Parents deserve a GREAT SCHOOL SYSTEM. So my hope is to provide that with transparency and open communication. Support our teachers and staff. I believe teachers want to teach and I'd like to show them support by listening to them and having their backs. Create a safe environment our students. We have our future leaders, doctors, artists, and teachers sitting in those seat

**SAFETY:** I would work with current BOE and CCPS staff members to evaluate the effectiveness of our current systems. If necessary, provide more training for each member of the school including a crisis team made up of 5-9 staff members that receive additional training on seclusion and restraint. I believe communication with the health dept., social services, parents, staff, and community resources is key.

**RESOURCE EQUITY:** I would work with the County Commissioners, Superintendent, and especially Teachers/Union to identify and prioritize the needs of each school. Next I would work within the budget to ensure the proper steps are taken to properly equip our teachers to be effective in the classroom. CCPC needs to continue being the BEST to keep / encourage others to stay / join our wonderful school system.

**DIVERSITY:** The Asset Development Framework helps individuals focus on similarities, appreciate and understand the culture of others. Teachers are being trained in "Building an Identity Safe Environment", which will be filtered to the students. This system has a has a culture module.. We should look into our hiring practices. Work to make it more inviting to minority teachers and staff to joint our community.

**CIVICS:** I spoke with a member of the BOE, and they weren't aware of these changes. They did speak of a push to get youth more involved in the voting process. I believe that civics would fall under government, so I'd work with the individuals that are in the know and then form an opinion.

**DISCIPLINE & REPORTING:** My team met with Dr. Curry to discuss guidelines that have only been in place since September of 2019. Accountability and Consequence are top of mind for many. As a certified mediator, believe Trans formative Mediation could help with some of the behavior issues. It would take a combined effort between students, parents, teachers, staff, and mediators. I don't know of any problems with reporting.

## District 3

### Candidate

Vote for 1

**Inez N Claggett**

**Nonpartisan**

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.

- **For the Constitutional Amendment**
- **Against the Constitutional Amendment**

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

- **For the referred law.**
- **Against the referred law.**

**Origin of the ballot question:** In 2007, the Maryland Constitution was amended to say that the General Assembly may only authorize additional forms or expansion of commercial gambling if approved through a referendum by a majority of the voters in a general election. In 2020 the General Assembly passed SB 04 that would authorize it to pass laws to establish a program of sports wagering and event wagering in the State if approved by voters in the next General Election. The bill also stated that the primary purpose of this expansion of gambling would be to raise revenue for education.

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

**Proposed Change:** If the referendum is approved, the General Assembly would then need to pass legislation that authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue licenses for sports and event wagering in the State. The legislation must include the criteria for eligible applications for a licensee and specify the permissible forms, means of conducting, and locations where sports wagering would take place. The bill that sent this question to the voters also requires a study by the General Assembly to evaluate whether there is reason to assist minorities and women in the sports and event wagering industry



and market. This study is to be completed by October 1, 2020 so any recommendations that result can be considered when the General Assembly establishes criteria for licenses (assuming the referendum passes.)

**Arguments in Favor:**

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

**Arguments Against:**

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

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

**A vote AGAINST the referred law means** that commercial wagering on sporting events will remain illegal in Maryland.

## Matching Gift Challenge

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

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

**Donate online:** [https://www.lwvmd.org/make\\_donation](https://www.lwvmd.org/make_donation)

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

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

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

