



# **Dorchester 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:** A drop box will be available at the location listed below beginning at the date indicated and available until 8 p.m. on Election Day. This location will also come with your ballot. Board of Elections staff will empty the drop box multiple times each day.  
**1<sup>st</sup> week of October until 8 p.m. on November 3**
  - Dorchester County Board of Elections, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, MD, 21613
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 the designated vote center listed below. 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.

- Dorchester County Board of Elections, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, MD, 21613

### 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 the Early Voting site or any of the additional Vote Centers listed below.**

- Cambridge, South Dorchester High School, 2475 Cambridge Beltway, Cambridge, MD, 21613
- North Dorchester High School, 5875 Cloverdale Road, Hurlock, MD, 21643

# 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](https://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](https://facebook.com/JoJorgensen2020)

**Campaign Twitter:** @Jorgensen4Potus

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

**Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker  
Green**

**Campaign Website:** [www.howiehawkins.us](http://www.howiehawkins.us)

**Campaign Facebook:** facebook.com/runhowierun2020

**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 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](http://www.house.gov)

### Issues

**GOALS:** Why are you running for this office?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Andy Harris**

**Republican Party**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/Harris4Congress](https://twitter.com/Harris4Congress)

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

**Campaign Phone:** (443) 693-7244

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

**IMMIGRATION:** We need to be sure that we have an adequate supply of temporary foreign

workers for industries important to the First District, like the crab picking industry and the tourism industry. I have been a leader on these issues in Washington, since so many small and family-owned businesses in the district depend on those workers, especially when the economy is so good and employees are so hard to find.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Mia Mason**

### **Democratic Party**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/mia4md](https://twitter.com/mia4md)

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

**Campaign Email:** [vote4miamason@miadmason.us](mailto:vote4miamason@miadmason.us)

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 946-2766

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

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

**HEALTH CARE:** We seek to expand ACA to Medicare for All. Our Goals are ensuring providers meet all standards of Medicare for all, with expansion to all ages. We are

protecting pre-existing conditions & ending exclusions that allow discrimination of care or denial of treatment and medicines. Private insurers & employers should be in compliance to have healthier workers by 2030. Thus, you can keep your plan too.

**ENVIRONMENT:** First, we must sign to Paris Accords again. Then enact legislation to have our Federal EPA comply with protecting our environment, and not delegate responsibilities to private sectors. We must fund our Chesapeake Bay protection fund to assist our communities, councils best, and companies to reward their efforts in protecting our Bay, State, and Planet in Solar, Wind, and Energy Storage utilities.

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

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

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

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

## **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.

**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 ten-year term.



## 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

**Brynja M. Booth**

**Judicial**

No response received by deadline.

## Judge, Court of Special Appeals

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

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

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

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

## Issues

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

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

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

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

## Court of Special Appeals At Large

### Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

**E. Gregory Wells**

**Judicial**

No response received by deadline.

# Court of Special Appeals Circuit 1

## Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

### Christopher B. Kehoe

#### Judicial

**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.

## Dorchester County Board of Education

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

**BASE SALARY:** \$3,200 annual salary.

**TERM:** Four years, limited to three consecutive terms.

**HOW ELECTED:** Board members are elected from councilmanic districts.

### Issues

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

**SCHOOL 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?

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** What steps will you take to ensure all stakeholders such as students, parents, teachers, support staff, administration, and community members have input to the budget process?

**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

### **Phil Bramble**

#### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Email:** philbram@hotmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 228-6682

**BACKGROUND:** I served on the Board of Education for twelve years, including as president for four years. I hold a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. I also have a vested interest in the Dorchester County school system, in that I have a daughter who teaches and two grandchildren who attend DCPS.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** The discipline policies that address this issue were last updated five years ago. The increase of bullying and attacks on staff and students demands that these policies be re-evaluated to ensure that we are doing all that we can to provide for the safety and security of teachers and students

**SCHOOL READINESS:** I would aggressively advocate at the local, state, and federal level for an expansion in preschool education funding. My funding priority would be to hire more highly qualified preschool teachers. More preschool education for Dorchester County's most deserving children now means more elementary school success for all of our children!

**STUDENT RETENTION:** Many of the students who drop out of school, do so because they don't see the benefit of finishing school. I would propose a program that would explicitly show students the benefits of a future with a high-school diploma.

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** I would hold budget hearings around the county and email a questionnaire to all stakeholders for their input as to problems and priorities to be addressed.

**PRIORITIES:** The safety of our students and staff should be paramount, followed by hiring, retaining, and commensurate pay for highly-qualified teachers, and early childhood education.

### **Mike D. Diaz**

#### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://@dorchester2020>

**Campaign Email:** mikediaz0206@gmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** (443) 515-0620

**BACKGROUND:** I have nearly two decades of experience working with at risk children and families in the behavior health field. During that career I have been responsible to manage sites that had upwards of 275 residents and over 100 employees. I was directly responsible for the Management oversight for all departments that provided services to the clients.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Policies in place need to be enforced consistently I support HB1407 that gives teachers back the control of the classroom environment. I support HB 802 that provides employees protections legally

**SCHOOL READINESS:** I've done quite a bit of research regarding universal Pre-K, the experts in the field are at odds as there isn't an abundance of evidence that it has a lasting effect on student preparedness. I would need to conduct further fact gathering in regards to this.

**STUDENT RETENTION:** Needs assessments that have small short term goals that are obtainable. A robust PTA- parent involvement with the schools have a positive effect Credit Recovery program that can be accessed 12 months of the year Scholarships to local trade schools/ Community colleges

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** I would advocate for all employees of the district to be an active part of those meetings. From my understanding this is already process..

**PRIORITIES:** The top priority as a district needs to be getting our under performing schools to an acceptable score card. Second is a robust safety, disciplinary, truancy and

alternative school programs. Teacher retention needs to be at the forefront of all discussions, this has a profound impact on all areas of the educational process.

## Board of Education District 3

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### **Susan Morgan**

##### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://susanforschoolboard.net>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Susan-Morgan-for-Board-of-Education-Member-106068474259378>

**Campaign Email:** tom.puglisi@comcast.net

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 418-2827

**BACKGROUND:** I was a Maryland Public School Counselor (PsyD) for over 20 years, working at all grade levels and giving me deep understanding of child development and behavior. I have worked with special needs students (e.g., developmental delay, autism) and students with emotional issues (e.g., suicidal ideation, gender dysmorphia, sexual orientation), and have taught college level History and Women's Studies.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I advocate implementing a three-tiered system of behavioral management through a structured Alternative Education Program that includes both academic and social/emotional components at all levels and is flexible enough to address individual student needs. Referral should be based on a careful Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), followed by an individualized Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP).

**SCHOOL READINESS:** Full day Pre-School is needed for all DCPS students. External grant opportunities, existing community programs, and untapped community resources (including local business involvement and the many experienced retired persons in Cambridge who are eager to help) must be harnessed and coordinated on a system-wide basis to address the lack of social, emotional, and academic readiness of our students.

**STUDENT RETENTION:** Students leave school because they cannot see its relevance to their lives. Career and Technology Education, leading directly to rewarding, well-paying jobs, can provide that relevance. DCPS must more aggressively recruit students whose interests and abilities lie outside traditional academic pursuits into its excellent and up-to-date, but severely underutilized, Career and Technology Programs.

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** The Board of Education holds meetings to solicit community input on the DCPS budget, but the meetings are poorly attended. Budget meetings must be announced earlier and more widely advertised. The public must be provided with sufficient background information to understand the budget and provide meaningful comments. Increased school funding is critical for future economic viability of the County.

**PRIORITIES:** (1) Establishing an effective Alternative Education Program to address classroom disruption. (2) Coordinating community resources to foster school readiness. (3) Marketing Career and Technical Programs to demonstrate school relevance. (4) Supporting teachers by providing wages competitive with those elsewhere on the Eastern Shore and making the school environment safe, supportive, and fulfilling.

#### **Philip W. Rice**

##### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Email:** philrice779@yahoo.com

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 228-6110

**BACKGROUND:** I am a trained High School math teacher. I was the finance chair for Cambridge for 9 of my 12 years of service. I have been a general manager and asst. general manager for two local businesses simultaneously. I have been a bank vice president for the data center and for bookkeeping for 24+ years. Finally I have been a school /board member for eight years, and been on the Mabe Board of Directors.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I have and will continue to advocate for a SRO in each of our buildings. I

sit on the policy committee, and we are updating all of our policies to reflect the current state of affairs. I am on the finance committee also, and we are continuously looking for additional funding for safety and security as well as strengthening our mental health presence. We are intending to meld yoga training

**SCHOOL READINESS:** I have proposal in the works that would alter the curriculum for pre-k, k, and 1st grade. The areas would have a strong dual approach which would make reading and math as the mainstays. Other items would include socialization and the arts. Even though we are making some headway, it is way to slow to show real results. If what we do is not getting the desired results adjust.

**STUDENT RETENTION:** There needs to be more mental health workers available in the schools and outside the schools, There are facilities and private practice individuals that can help and be covered by insurance. More intense career guidance is needed. We as a systems need to accept and embrace that college is not desired goal for all students. We need to make them productive and involved members of society.

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** We currently hold open budget work sessions for the public. Participation is needed either in person or via correspondence.

**PRIORITIES:** 1. safety 2 mental health availability 3 Recruiting and maintain highly qualified staff

## Board of Education District 5

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### Laura Hill Layton

##### Nonpartisan

**Campaign Email:** laura@laytonschance.com

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 726-2233

**BACKGROUND:** I am a retired teacher. I taught 34 years, including both middle and high schools. I am currently the vice-president of DCPS, and therefore have four years of experience. I have two children who graduated from DCPS, one grandson who graduated last year from DCPS, and a granddaughter who is a junior this year. My training as a teacher gives me the background and experience to understand the issues.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Right now we have enhanced security in all schools. We have security cameras in all of our schools, and our newest schools have security vestibules. We have grant funding to build security vestibules in our other middle and high schools. We have school resource officers in both high schools, and are asking our county council to fund eleven more so that all schools will be covered.

**SCHOOL READINESS:** We are moving toward full pre-school education for all our students. Kirwin monies last year helped move us in that direction. In addition we are working with day care centers and licensed day care with structured activities to teach both reading and social skills. We have a strong Judy Center director and Supervisor of Early Childhood who both are dedicated to our youngest learners.

**STUDENT RETENTION:** We provide many alternatives to the traditional classroom. We provide evening school, summer school, and alternative school for those who would benefit from it. In the alternative school, students keep up with their regular classroom work, and in addition are given behavioral guidance and mental health support. We are providing our staff with professional development that will enable them to deal.

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** We currently have three public budget sessions at which the community, parents, teachers, anyone is encouraged to comment and give suggestions on budget process. Our budget sessions are always open, and this year we have been very open to comments during the discussion by the Board. All members of the Board are very visible members of the community. I frequently meet with individuals by request.

**PRIORITIES:** 1. Security of our buildings and safety of our staff and students. We have made several changes since December. 2. Universal pre-K in our county and reaching our most vulnerable learners as soon as possible. 3. Beginning basic reading concepts in our

pre-K and K students so that all our students are reading on grade level by grade 3. More information on request. This is very basic.

## **Voncia L. Molock**

### **Nonpartisan**

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

**BACKGROUND:** I'm a proud product of DCPS. I am married with 4 children – 3 of whom graduated from NDHS and the fourth is currently attending NDHS. I have two degrees and 32 years of professional working experience. I am a results oriented and data driven professional. For more information, see my LinkedIn profile: [www.linkedin.com/in/vonciamolock](http://www.linkedin.com/in/vonciamolock).

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Existing policies regarding student and staff safety as well as bullying must be administered consistently and fairly. In addition, effective alternative schools and an appropriate number of social service/mental health professionals must be available to assist students in need. We must follow the data where it leads and act accordingly.

**SCHOOL READINESS:** Pre-school education and preparedness is essential for preparing a child for a successful school and learning experience. I believe that any child found not ready to enter first grade, should be given the opportunity to attend an effective summer program to fill identified gaps. It would also be helpful if parents and care takers are given the tools to teach their pre-school age children.

**STUDENT RETENTION:** I believe that if we work closely with students to help them “see what they can be”, they will be intrinsically motivated to stay in school and complete their course of study to achieve their dreams. I created the “Student Success Conference” (at no cost to the school district) to educate and encourage our students as well as parents. I also believe strongly in the effectiveness of summer camps.

**BUDGET TRANSPARENCY:** I will ensure that all stakeholders have input into the budget process by opening meetings and listening to all views as well as requiring a thorough benefit analysis for spending requests that are subsequently verified.

**PRIORITIES:** 1) Lack of Leadership 2) Unacceptable Student Behavior and test scores 3) Too Little Community Involvement

## **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.

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