



Garrett County Voters' Guide 2020 General Election

Published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland

About this Voters' Guide

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare for participation in the general election. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.**

All candidates were asked to provide biographical information and to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for the same office were asked identical questions. Responses from candidates who will appear on the ballot are printed exactly as submitted to the LWV. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. Presidential candidates' responses were limited to 750 characters. All other candidates' responses were limited to 400 characters and any additional material was cut off at that point. If a candidate did not respond by the print deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

Additional information on the candidates is available at www.VOTE411.org, which has any updates received after the deadline. Candidate websites provide additional biographical and policy information. If the candidate submitted a campaign website, it is listed under her/his name.

The League assumes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

Table of Contents

Garrett County <i>Voters' Guide</i> 2020 General Election	1
About this <i>Voters' Guide</i>	1
Table of Contents	2
Voting by Mail	2
Voting in Person	3
Drop Box and Voting Locations.....	4
President and Vice President of the United States	4
Representative in Congress, District 6	6
Judge, Court of Special Appeals.....	10
Special Appeals At-Large	10
Court of Special Appeals, Circuit 3	10
Garrett County Board of Education At Large.....	11
State Ballot Questions.....	12
Matching Gift Challenge.....	15

Voting by Mail

Applications for Ballots

Every voter on the active voter registration list was mailed an application for a mail-in/absentee ballot at the end of August. If you did not receive an application, you should check your voter registration information at

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call your Board of Elections.

The most common reason for being placed in the inactive voter list is moving without notifying the Board of Elections of your new address, so that election mail sent to you is returned to the Board of Elections. If you have questions, call the Board of Elections.

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

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

Receiving Ballots via the Postal Service or the Internet

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

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

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

Returning Ballots

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

You have several options for returning your ballot:

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

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

Voting in Person

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

Early voting will be available at designated vote centers; these locations are listed below in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations. Voters may use any Early Vote Center in their county. Voter registration will be available, as will marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and/or marking a paper ballot. Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail and voters who cannot use the ballot they received should also go to an Early Voting Center.

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

Due to Covid-19 precautions, the usual precinct polling places will not be open for the November 3, 2020 general election. Instead, voters can use any Vote Center in their county. Voter registration will be available, as will marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and/or marking a paper ballot. Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail and voters who cannot use the ballot they received should also go to a Vote Center. **On Election Day, voters may use any of the sites used for Early Voting or any of the additional Vote Centers listed in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations.**

Drop Box and Voting Locations

Drop Box Locations

Now until 8 p.m. on November 3

- **Board of Elections Office, 2008 Maryland Highway, Suite 1, Mtn. Lake Park, MD 21550**

Sometime in October until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Oakland Community Center, 14 N 8th Street, Oakland, MD, 21550
- Northern Outreach Center, 12601 National Pike, Grantsville, MD, 21536

November 3 until 8 p.m.

- Northern High School, 86 Pride Parkway, Accident, MD, 21520

Early Voting Sites

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

- Oakland Community Center, 14 N 8th Street, Oakland, MD, 21550
- Northern Outreach Center, 12601 National Pike, Grantsville, MD, 21536

Additional Voting Sites on Election Day

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

- Northern High School, 86 Pride Parkway, Accident, MD, 21520

President and Vice President of the United States

DUTIES: The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two terms.

BASE SALARY: \$400,000 per year.

Criteria for Participation in VOTE411.org: All presidential candidates who will appear on Maryland's ballot are listed below. Additional write-in candidates appear on the Maryland State Board of Elections website

(https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/general_candidates/index.html). The League of Women Voters of the United States, through the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), established criteria to determine which candidates to invite to respond to questions for the Voters' Guide.

Candidates qualified for invitations from LWVEF to provide responses to specific questions if they met the following criteria:

- 1) The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President
- 2) The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication
- 3) The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes

Additional information on the candidates may be available on VOTE411.org.

Issues

COVID-19 RECOVERY: What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

TOP PRIORITY: What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

RACIAL INJUSTICE: How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

IMMIGRATION: What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

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

Candidates

Vote for 1 pair

Donald. J. Trump and Michael Pence

Republican

Campaign Website: www.donaldjtrump.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/DonaldTrump

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/realdonaldtrump

Campaign Instagram: instagram.com/realdonaldtrump

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

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Democrat

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

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

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

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/JoJorgensen2020

Campaign Twitter: @Jorgensen4Potus

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

Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker

Green

Campaign Website: www.howiehawkins.us

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/runhowierun2020

Campaign Twitter: @howiehawkins

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

Jerome M. Segal and John de Graaf

Bread and Roses

Campaign Website: www.segalforpresident.org

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

Representative in Congress, District 6

DUTIES: Representatives make laws along with the members of the Senate, and may conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Representatives can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

TERM: Two years

BASE SALARY: \$174,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2010 Census.

WEBSITE: www.house.gov

Issues

GOALS: Why are you running for this office?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Candidates

Vote for 1

Neil C. Parrott

Republican Party

Campaign Website: <http://www.neilparrott.org>

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/neilparrott

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

Campaign Email: neil@neilparrott.org

Campaign Phone: (240) 329-0293

GOALS: Washington DC is a mess. District 6 needs a representative who lives in the District and who will work to improve our community and our country. I care about our nation and want to ensure that our children, that future generations, will have the same opportunities and freedoms that we enjoyed. Instead of playing political games, I'll work for you to bring common-sense, practical solutions to DC.

IMMIGRATION: Existing immigration laws need to be followed. Lack of immigration enforcement and a porous southern border have led to suffering from gangs like MS 13 who terrorize our District, opioid and fentanyl deaths, and increased human trafficking. Sanctuary cities need to be stopped, the border wall needs to be constructed, and companies who take advantage of illegal aliens should be heavily fined.

HEALTH CARE: The Affordable Care Act is anything but affordable. Since passing, health insurance, health care, and prescription drug costs skyrocketed. The quality of care has also degraded; when did you last see a real doctor instead of a PA? Our country can do better by repealing and replacing Obamacare by using free market solutions that will bring costs down and increase quality of care.

ENVIRONMENT: The primary world polluter is China. They dump over 96% more plastic into the ocean than the US and contribute the largest percentage of the world's CO2. Given that, the US should not sacrifice our manufacturing jobs to countries that do not have effective environmental laws. Trade laws as a negotiating tactic to get China and other countries to pollute less.

GUN SAFETY: Access to firearms is guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. Our country has a violence epidemic. A major cause of the problem is that we no longer adequately treat the mentally ill as we should. Instead, they often live untreated until they commit an act of violence. Jails have been turned into our new insane asylums. Our jails should be for the career criminals who terrorize our communities.

ECONOMY: The American experiment has worked and is working. Our economic system is based on the government valuing property rights and providing a fair playing field so that everyone has the chance to succeed. Our system allows people to pursue their own individual goals, where incentives are provided to invest, to take risks, to work hard, or to acquire new skills.

DISCRIMINATION: Martin Luther King indicated that, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." It's time for government policies to embrace this concept. For example, merit should be used to decide who receives government contracts and to decide who is accepted into AP classes.

STUDENT LOANS: Education. As a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, I manage a college scholarships program. When 1st year students apply, I ask them to read finance materials and to write a paper about the effect of college debt. Unfortunately, schools aren't teaching our students proper financial literacy, and this year I've introduced a bill to require financial literacy to be a part of the curriculum.

David J. Trone

Democratic Party

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

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/davidjtrone

Campaign Instagram: @davidjtrone

Campaign Email: david@davidtrone.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 800-2103

GOALS: I'm running for reelection because we need people in Washington who think long-term and are committed to helping America's most vulnerable. While we have made strides towards this goal, we must do more to end the opioid epidemic, reform our criminal justice system, and ensure every child receives a quality education. I'm committed to remaining in this fight for people.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are vital to maintaining the success and spirit of our nation. I support comprehensive immigration reform, and I was proud to help the House of Representatives pass H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, which would protect our Dreamers and those granted Temporary Protected Status. I will continue to work to against inhuman and cruel policies such as travel bans and family separation.

HEALTH CARE: The ACA helped millions of people access care, and it has played a crucial role as a step toward universal coverage. While we work to stop the Administration from sabotaging it, we also need to work to build a healthcare system that lives up to our values and guarantees healthcare as a human right. I support allowing every American to buy into Medicare, creating a public health insurance option.

ENVIRONMENT: I'm proud to be endorsed by the Sierra Club, and I am honored to serve on the Foreign Relations committee, which is dedicated to crafting international environmental policy. Climate change is real, and we must act to combat this urgent threat before it is too late. House Democrats have acted to pass, the Climate Action Now Act, which requires the federal government to remain in the Paris Agreement

GUN SAFETY: Thoughts and prayers from politicians do nothing to reduce gun violence. Action from Congress, like H.R. 8, does. We need to enact common sense gun legislation, including universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, banning bump stocks and military-style assault weapons. We also need to take the power back from the gun lobby. The lives of all Americans are too important to risk.

ECONOMY: The Trump administration's tax cuts for America's most wealthy do nothing to improve the lives of working Americans. We need to reverse the Trump tax cuts and write a more equitable tax code to ensure that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share. I was also proud to support the Raise the Wage Act in Congress, which would raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

DISCRIMINATION: I am a proud co-sponsor of the Equality Act, which provides non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and education among others. This is just one of the many bills passed by the House that is sitting on the Senate Majority Leader's desk. It's time for the Senate to take a vote and ensure that we protect the rights of our minority communities.

STUDENT LOANS: I took out student loans to help finance my education, and as the only Member of Congress from Maryland serving on the Education and Labor Committee, I'm committed to reforming our education system and reducing student debt. We need to protect programs like the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program so that graduates who enter a career in public service don't wind up with crippling debt.

George Gluck

Green Party

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

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/gluck4congress

Campaign Email: VoteForGeorge@GeorgeGluck.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 924-5065

GOALS: I am running to return the investment made in my education by this country, not only in terms of higher taxes I've paid to allow new generations of immigrants' children to advance, but also pay back with the knowledge and experience I've gained from my 7 decades here. I hope to convince a plurality of voters to help me fulfill my campaign slogan: "Make America GOOD Again. This Time for All of Us!"

IMMIGRATION: Policy must be consistent with our national vision of universal social justice. I am in agreement with the vast majority of the Green Party immigration policy (www.gp.org/social_justice/#sjImmigration). For example, reduce wait lists and make the system work more efficiently ... Pre-1996 screening criteria for legal permanent residency and citizenship applications should be restored.

HEALTH CARE: I have spent the last 25 years as an IT professional aiding to modernize our national health insurance system, from claims processing for CMS, to certifying insurance providers under ACA, to improving the DC health exchange registration process. I am confident that an improved "Medicare for All" can be quickly implemented, where everyone will have coverage at least as good as they now have.

ENVIRONMENT: I agree with all 8 Green Party environmental justice planks. Here is #2: "Uphold the precautionary principle, requiring polluters to bear the burden of proof in demonstrating the safety of their practices. Expand the application of the precautionary principle from chemicals and health to land use, waste, energy, food policy and local economic development." (www.gp.org/social_justice/#sjEnvJustice)

GUN SAFETY: As part of a more comprehensive criminal justice platform, here is the Green Party stand on gun safety, which I wholeheartedly agree with: "Thoughtful, carefully considered gun control such as is contained in the Brady Bill (1993). Eliminate the gun show loophole that permits sale of weapons without background checks. Extend background checks to all private sales of firearms."

ECONOMY: Just posing this question is recognition that the "growing income gap" is a significant problem. The Green Party advocates "public funding for the development of living-wage jobs in community and environmental service. [Like], environmental clean-up, ... repair and maintenance of public facilities, neighborhood-based public safety, ..., and construction and renovation of energy-efficient housing."

DISCRIMINATION: The 100+ page (<https://www.gp.org/platform>) section on discrimination, adds to above: women's, indigenous peoples', youths', GIs' & veterans', secularists', consumers', adoptees', and Native Hawaiians' rights. There is a large section on reparations to blacks for centuries of slavery and "Jim Crow" discrimination. An example: Ratification of UN Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities.

STUDENT LOANS: At Brooklyn College, in the mid 60s, tuition was an affordable \$50, not per credit or course, but per term. The GP calls for "repeal of the misnamed Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 in order to restore Chapter 7 bankruptcy as a viable final safety net for consumers caught by student loans, as well as health crises, unaffordable mortgages, and credit card debts."

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?

Special Appeals At-Large

Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

E. Gregory Wells

Judicial

No response received by deadline.

Court of Special Appeals, Circuit 3

Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

Kathryn Grill Graeff

Judicial

QUALIFICATIONS: I have 34 years of legal experience. The last 12 years, I have had the privilege of serving as a judge on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, where I have written more than 850 opinions and been appointed to leadership positions, including Chair of the Judicial Ethics Committee. Prior to becoming a judge, I was Chief of the Criminal Appeals Division in the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

COURT NEEDS: A big challenge facing the court system these last several months has been the coronavirus pandemic, which has impacted the court's ability to provide access to justice while protecting the health and safety of all participants involved. The Court of Special Appeals has addressed this challenge by utilizing technology and holding remote court proceedings.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: One thing that courts can do to reduce recidivism is to understand and address underlying problems contributing to criminal activity. For example, the creation of drug courts, which help offenders address addiction problems, has been shown to reduce

recidivism.

DISCRIMINATION: When I became a judge, I swore to be fair and impartial and to provide equal justice for all. Courts can help to reduce the risk of bias in legal proceedings in many ways, including educating all members of the judiciary on discrimination and implicit bias. The judiciary recently formed a Committee on Equal Justice to identify improvements that can be made to eliminate the risk of discrimination.

Garrett County Board of Education At Large

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.

SALARY: \$4,000

TERM: 4 years

HOW ELECTED: Members are elected at-large, though they must live in the district they represent.

Issues

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

BUDGET PRIORITIES: How would you rank the priorities of education needs, including teacher retention, class size, and school buildings?

STANDARDS AND TESTING: How should the national and state standards be used to ensure a quality education for each child in the county?

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: What programs will you support to prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?

SCHOOL SAFETY: How will you address school safety issues such as gangs, bullying, and substance abuse?

PARTNERSHIPS: How will you promote partnerships with businesses and community organizations to improve the educational experience of our students?

PRIORITIES: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Vote for 2

Suzanne B. Sincell

Nonpartisan

No response received by deadline.

Jason E. VanSickle

Nonpartisan

No response received by deadline.

Tom Woods

Nonpartisan

Campaign Website: <http://Friends of Tom Woods>

Campaign Facebook: <http://tom woods>

Campaign Email: twoods143@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (240) 321-6644

QUALIFICATIONS: As an educator for 36 years working as a teacher, football coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal, I have been a part of practically all aspects of secondary education. I have now served 3 years on the Garrett County Board of Education and this year I serve as the President.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: The biggest need that we have in Garrett County is one of hiring and retaining the best qualified staff that is available. We are fortunate that thus far our system has been able to retain a very high percentage of our staff. The retention is largely

due to the quality of life in Garrett County as well as the overall success of GCPS. Our second priority would be the needs of our buildings

STANDARDS AND TESTING: In order to effectively ascertain the progress that is being made at each education level it is important to establish testing baselines that will allow systems to monitor successes as well as failures. Maryland has some of the most stringent standards used in public education and will always challenge students to attain excellence, however, national standards need applied to ensure high goals.

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future addresses the extremely important need for more vocational opportunities. GCPS has partnered with Garrett College to offer several courses that enable those not on a college track to be best prepared for the work world. As the need for vocational jobs increase, it is imperative that our system both educate and place our students efficiently.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Substance abuse is perhaps the foremost area of concern in GCPS. Through programs delivered at all levels of instruction we provide the necessary information that will hopefully discourage substance abuse. Bullying remains a problem in all schools. Through programs such as Rachel's Challenge, PBIS, and other initiatives we attempt to focus on positive student relations.

PARTNERSHIPS: All of the schools in Garrett County have done a superior job of partnering with many community businesses and charitable organizations. Our Learning Beyond the Classroom bus is a great example of delivering instruction, meals and family services throughout the summer due to a partnership with the WGW Community Youth Cup. Many of Garrett County's businesses are annual contributors to our schools

PRIORITIES: My biggest priority, as a person involved in GCPS for over 42 years, is to ensure that our students get the best education possible. That is accomplished by keeping community schools that enrich that experience. It is also accomplished through interagency collaboration with both state and local entities. Finally, through hard work by everyone affiliated with GCPS.

State Ballot Questions

Maryland State Question 1

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

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

The proposed amendment authorizes the General Assembly, in enacting a balanced budget bill for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to increase, diminish, or add items, provided that the General Assembly may not exceed the total proposed budget as submitted by the Governor.

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

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

Present Practice: The Maryland Constitution prohibits the General Assembly from increasing any budget item or adding any new items to the Governor's proposed budget for any of the government agencies except the Judicial branch and the operations of the General Assembly itself. The one exception is that it may add to the budget if it enacts a new revenue source to fund additional items. This is a rare occurrence. In addition, it cannot move funds from one agency to another. Therefore, in practice, the General Assembly can only recommend cuts to state agency budgets recommended by the

Governor. Once a budget passes the Senate and House, it becomes law and cannot be changed or vetoed by the Governor.

Proposed Change: If passed, the General Assembly could move spending in the budget proposed by the Governor from one agency to another as long as the total amount of the budget does not exceed the total amount in Governor's proposed budget. The General Assembly could also add spending to a new item, as long as other item(s) of the budget are reduced to pay for the new expenditure. This change would begin with the 2024 Budget bill which is presented to the General Assembly in 2023. At that time, the Governor would be given the authority to veto items added or items increased by the General Assembly.

Arguments in Favor:

- The Maryland Legislature has less power in the budget process than any other legislature in the United States.
- Members of the public might have more ability to influence funding for programs of importance to them because they have more opportunities to interact with legislators during the General Assembly Session personally and during committee hearings, than they do to influence the Governor or the state agencies when the budget details are negotiated and finalized for presentation.
- For decades, Republican and Democratic legislators have proposed this change while Governors from both major parties have been in power. The provisions of this bill will not take effect until the election of a new Governor and members of the General Assembly are elected.
- This Constitutional Amendment would not change the current requirement that the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget.

Arguments Against:

- Because the Governor would have the power to enact line item vetoes, there may be more Special Sessions to override those vetoes. Special Sessions come with a cost.
- Because the public will be advocating for new or increased funding for particular programs, legislators could be swayed to support programs that the Governor did not feel should be funded at that level.
- It could take longer to pass a budget.
- Legislators may have more concern about programs that affect their constituents, while the Governor may have a more statewide perspective.

A vote FOR the constitutional amendment means the legislature will be able to adjust spending in the Governor's budget by reducing some items and increasing others as long as the total amount of spending does not exceed the amount of spending proposed by the Governor.

A vote AGAINST the constitutional amendment means current law would remain in place and the legislature will only be able to reduce the expenditures within the budget proposed by the Governor.

Maryland State Question 2

Commercial Gaming Expansion Referendum (Ch. 492 of the 2020 Legislative Session)

Expansion of Commercial Gaming-Sports and Event Wagering

Do you approve the expansion of commercial gaming in the State of Maryland to authorize sports and events betting for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education?

- **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.

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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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