



# Howard County Voters' Guide 2020 General Election

*Published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland*

## About this Voters' Guide

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

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

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

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

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## Voting by Mail

### Applications for Ballots

Every voter on the active voter registration list was mailed an application for a mail-in/absentee ballot at the end of August. If you did not receive an application, you should check your voter registration information at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or call your Board of Elections. The most common reason for being placed in the inactive voter list is moving without notifying the Board of Elections of your new address, so that election mail sent to you is returned to the Board of Elections. If you have questions, call the Board of Elections.

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

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

### Receiving Ballots via the Postal Service or the Internet

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

We strongly encourage the large majority of voters to request a paper ballot. Ballots delivered by internet and printed on a home printer cannot be scanned by the scanners in

use for elections. When such home-printed ballots are received at the Board of Elections, they must be copied onto standard ballots for scanning. This delays the counting of ballots.

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

## **Returning Ballots**

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

### **You have several options for returning your ballot:**

1. **All ballots must be returned or be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.**
2. **U.S. Mail:** Your ballot packet will include a postage paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. You may also use a private delivery service, but your ballot still must be sent no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.
3. **Ballot drop boxes:** Drop boxes will be available at the locations listed 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 in the section titled Drop Box and Voting Locations. Voters may use any Early Vote Center in their county. Voter registration will be available, as will marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and/or marking a paper ballot. Voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail and voters who cannot use the ballot they received should also go to an Early Voting Center.

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

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

# Drop Box and Voting Locations

## Drop Box Locations

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

- [Howard County Board of Elections](#) , 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21046
- [Long Reach High School](#), 6101 Old Dobbin Lane, Columbia, MD, 21045
- [Marriotts Ridge High School](#), 12100 Woodford Drive, Marriottsville, MD, 21104
- [Meadowbrook Athletic Complex](#), 5001 Meadowbrook Lane, Ellicott City, MD, 21043
- [Reservoir High School](#), 11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, MD, 20759
- [Wilde Lake High School](#), 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD, 21044

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

- [Elkridge Landing Middle School](#), 7085 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD, 21075
- [Laurel Woods Elementary School](#), 9250 N. Laurel Road, Laurel, MD, 20723
- [Lisbon Elementary School](#), 15901 Frederick Road, Lisbon, MD, 21797

## Early Voting Sites

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

- [Long Reach High School](#), 6101 Old Dobbin Lane, Columbia, MD, 21045
- [Marriotts Ridge High School](#), 12100 Woodford Drive, Marriottsville, MD, 21104
- [Meadowbrook Athletic Complex](#), 5001 Meadowbrook Lane, Ellicott City, MD, 21043
- [Reservoir High School](#), 11550 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, MD, 20759
- [Wilde Lake High School](#), 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD, 21044

## Additional Voting Sites on Election Day

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

- [Atholton High School](#), 6520 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD, 21044
- [Centennial High School](#), 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD, 21042
- [Elkridge Landing Middle School](#), 7085 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD, 21075
- [Glenelg High School](#), 14025 Burntwoods Road, Glenelg, MD, 21737
- [Hammond High School](#), 8800 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD, 21046
- [Howard High School](#), 8700 Old Annapolis Road, Ellicott City, MD, 21043
- [Laurel Woods Elementary School](#), 9250 N. Laurel Road, Laurel, MD, 20723
- [Lisbon Elementary School](#), 15901 Frederick Road, Lisbon, MD, 21797
- [Mount Hebron High School](#), 9440 Old Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD, 21042
- [Oakland Mills High School](#), 9410 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia, MD, 21045
- [Patuxent Valley Middle School](#), 9151 Vollmerhausen Road, Jessup, MD, 20794
- [River Hill High School](#), 12101 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD, 21029

## 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. 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](https://www.vote411.org).

## Issues

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

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

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

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

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

## Candidates

Vote for 1 pair

### Donald. J. Trump and Michael Pence

Republican

**Campaign Website:** [www.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.donaldjtrump.com)

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

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

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

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

### Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Democrat

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

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

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

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

**Campaign YouTube:** [http://www.youtube.com/joebiden](https://www.youtube.com/joebiden)

**COVID-19 RECOVERY:** It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and

local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

**TOP PRIORITY:** Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

**RACIAL INJUSTICE:** America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

**IMMIGRATION:** My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

**HEALTHCARE:** This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

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## **Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Spike Cohen**

**Libertarian**

**Campaign Website:** [www.Jo20.com](http://www.Jo20.com)

**Campaign Facebook:** facebook.com/JoJorgensen2020

**Campaign Twitter:** @Jorgensen4Potus

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

## **Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker**

**Green**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** @howiehawkins

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

**Jerome M. Segal and John de Graaf**

**Bread and Roses**

**Campaign Website:** [www.segalforpresident.org](http://www.segalforpresident.org)

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

## Representative in Congress

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

**TERM:** Two years

**BASE SALARY:** \$174,000

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

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

### Issues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Congressional District 2

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Johnny Ray Salling**

**Republican Party**

No response received by deadline.

**C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger**

**Democratic Party**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/call\\_me\\_dutch](https://twitter.com/call_me_dutch)

**Campaign Email:** [godutch@dutchforcongress.com](mailto:godutch@dutchforcongress.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 252-2505

**GOALS:** Congress needs people, like me, working across the aisle and focusing on the basics like good schools, safe streets and decent jobs. I want to keep focusing on national security as we prepare for the threats of tomorrow, including cyber-attacks and nuclear weapons. I also want to continue my work on the Appropriations Committee, ensuring that Maryland and its communities get their fair share.

**IMMIGRATION:** I'd stop the President from raiding our military facilities and families to

build the wasteful border wall. I'd end family separation and move immigrants out of detention facilities as quickly as possible by hiring more federal judges to reduce the courts backlog. I'll work to pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides both sensible border security and a reasonable path to citizenship.

**HEALTH CARE:** We must continue the consumer protections provided by the ACA, but strengthen it by adding a public option that creates competition and lowers prices. We can also allow Americans to buy into Medicare at a younger age. We also must address soaring prescription drug prices that are generating record profits for the pharmaceutical industry at the expense of Americans in need of life-saving medicines.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Since the U.S. is one of the world's leading polluters, the federal government must take the lead in addressing environmental concerns like climate change. We must re-join the Paris Treaty and work toward carbon neutrality. As an Appropriator, I support full funding for programs such as the Chesapeake Bay Program, which benefits our economy, creates jobs and preserves our natural heritage.

**GUN SAFETY:** I support banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, background checks for gun and ammo purchases, no-fly-no-buy and tougher penalties for straw purchases. People convicted of certain hate crimes, as well as domestic abusers, should not be allowed to buy guns. I have introduced legislation to stop the cycle of gun violence by providing hospital-based interventions for recovering victims.

**ECONOMY:** The middle class needs to make more money, which is why I support extending tax cuts for the working class, as well as a minimum wage increase. Congress needs to address paid leave and advance robust "Buy American" provisions as well as workers' rights to help strengthen the working class. I support investing in infrastructure to create jobs, as well as tax incentives for small business.

**DISCRIMINATION:** There is no place in our society for discrimination of any kind. That's why I support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, as well as passing The Equality Act and the Disability Integration Act once and for all.

**STUDENT LOANS:** I support legislation to lower student loan interest rates and allow students to refinance their student loans when rates decline. I support expanding federal loan forgiveness programs for students who choose certain in-demand careers, like teachers and nurses, and capping the dollar amount students must repay each month. We also need to increase the maximum value and number of Pell Grants.

## Congressional District 3

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### **Charles Anthony**

#### **Republican Party**

No response received by deadline.

#### **John Sarbanes**

#### **Democratic Party**

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

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

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

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

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 847-9556

**GOALS:** I am running to strengthen our democracy by ending the influence of big money in politics, protecting the right to vote and ensuring that public officials work for the public interest. To make progress on the most pressing issues we face, we first need a political system that responds to the many, not the money. Too many Americans feel shut out by Washington; we need to bring them back in.



**IMMIGRATION:** I oppose the Trump Administration's immigration policies including zero tolerance/family separation, restricting asylum, ICE operating in sensitive locations, the public charge rule and efforts to end DACA and TPS, among others. We need an immigration policy that protects economic interests while providing a path to citizenship and a humane, legal framework for people to come to the United States.

**HEALTH CARE:** I am a strong supporter of the ACA and believe that we must stop and reverse years of Republican sabotage, which has increased costs and limited access to health care. I also believe we can expand on the ACA's successes, including by passing a public option or a single-payer, Medicare for All system – both of which I support – and passing H.R. 3 to reduce the costs of prescription drugs.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change is the existential crisis of our day. The federal government must lead the effort to reach net-zero carbon emissions that includes a just transition for all communities, including our most vulnerable. We must rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, reverse course on Trump's deregulatory agenda, and promote green technology that moves the nation towards a healthier, sustainable future.

**GUN SAFETY:** I have voted to close loopholes and strengthen our background check system. I also support an assault weapons ban, banning large capacity magazines, a national system for extreme-risk protection orders, mandatory safe gun storage, raising the purchasing age for certain firearms and prohibiting persons convicted of hate crimes from buying guns.

**ECONOMY:** The key to addressing income inequality is fixing our democracy so that economic power does not equal political power. We need to reverse decades of tax cuts for the wealthy and big business and reinvest those revenues in our people – including by reducing the financial burden of health care, housing and education. We must focus on economic justice and building wealth in marginalized communities.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I strongly support important civil rights legislation like the Equality Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, the End Racial Profiling Act and the NO BAN Act. I also support building on criminal justice reforms like the First Step Act. I authored H.R. 1, which would expand access to the ballot, particularly for racial minorities and persons with disabilities, who face additional barriers to voting.

**STUDENT LOANS:** I authored the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to provide debt relief for individuals who work in public service. I introduced the What You Can Do For Your Country Act, which strengthens PSLF and ensures its proper administration by the Department of Education. I oppose the Trump Administration's attacks on student borrowers and believe we must better protect them from predatory lenders.

## Congressional District 7

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Kimberly Klacik**

**Republican Party**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** [http://Facebook.com/@Kimberly Klacik](http://Facebook.com/@KimberlyKlacik)

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

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

**GOALS:** No response received by deadline.

**IMMIGRATION:** Fix the legal immigration procedures and loopholes to make it more beneficial to US workers and legal immigrants. The current immigration policy exploits the workers for the benefit of large business and any change would have to focus on

**HEALTH CARE:** The current Affordable Care Act is not serving the needs of the customers and needs to be either revamped or eliminated.

**ENVIRONMENT:** No response received by deadline.

**GUN SAFETY:** Baltimore City has one of the highest homicide rates in the country and has extensive gun control currently in place. I would work to provide opportunities for those who are committing the violence.

**ECONOMY:** No response received by deadline.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Enforcement of violations of bias would be a top priority. If there is bias

**STUDENT LOANS:** I would revisit the law that student loans could not be discharged in bankruptcy.

## **Kweisi Mfume**

### **Democratic Party**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/@mfumeforcongress>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/mfume4congress](https://twitter.com/mfume4congress)

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

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

**Campaign Phone:** (410) 357-1212

**GOALS:** I believe the 7th Congressional District and our country face crucial crossroads ahead. I also believe it is important to always replace leadership with leadership. We cannot miss the opportunity to send the strongest representation to Congress now. Having served in this position for 10 years, I am the only candidate who is proven, tested, and ready to go to work on day one - with seniority.

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigration built America and it continues to be the heartbeat of the American economy. I will fight to require humane immigration policies at our borders so that we will not have to relive the tragedies of the last few years, e.g., policies that put people in cages or permanently divided children from their parents. In addition, I will work to create a sensible pathway to citizenship.

**HEALTH CARE:** Healthcare is a right. I will vote to expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA), beginning with restoring the protections stripped from the ACA by this Administration. My healthcare vision includes expanded healthcare access for low-income Americans, a public health insurance model like Medicare, enhanced private and/or employer-sponsored insurance options, and a tax credit to offset premium costs.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The federal government should be the chief architect and chief enforcer of existing and forward-looking environmental policies. It should implement environmental policies that incentivize responsible personal choices, motivate corporations to make better choices (by carrot, by stick or both), steer us towards an increasingly green economy, and establish America as a global environmental leader.

**GUN SAFETY:** Reinstating an assault weapons ban and adopting a national background check system focused on psychological competency are two key gun safety policies I will pursue in Congress. In 1994, I helped pass an assault weapons ban that lasted 10 years. Congress has not had the will to reinstate the ban once it was lifted. I will fight to change that if I earn the honor of serving the People in Congress.

**ECONOMY:** I will work to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour today, with that figure indexed to inflation. I will also work to revisit the most recent tax cuts for the highest earning Americans so that we can invest that money into educating our children and expanding skills training opportunities. The policy focus is investing in opportunities that prepare people to earn more money.

**DISCRIMINATION:** It sometimes appears as if our society faces more biases today than we did just a few years ago. The federal government must ensure existing anti-discrimination laws are fully enforced by the people and institutions created to do so. Next, our nation must acknowledge one form of bigotry is just as harmful as any other form of bigotry so our laws must align to reflect that truth.

**STUDENT LOANS:** The student loan crisis may cripple our future economy. We must act

now to ensure a financially stable future workforce. I support allowing students to lower their student loan rates through refinancing, loan forgiveness programs for graduates working in certain public interest fields with incomes below a certain level, and in the most extreme cases full debt forgiveness.

## Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 5

**DUTIES:** Judges preside in the Circuit Court, which is a trial court that hears major civil cases and more serious criminal cases, such as those requiring a jury trial. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

**SALARY:** \$174,433, effective July 1, 2021

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

**HOW ELECTED:** The state is divided into 8 Judicial Circuits. The General Assembly determines the number of judges in each circuit and county. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office. Each newly appointed Circuit Court judge then must stand for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. One or more other qualified members of the bar may also run to fill the vacancy. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots.

### Issues

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

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

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

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

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### Quincy L. Coleman Judicial

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

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have over 40 years of courtroom experience; including 20 years of experience as a Parole and Probation agent for the State of Maryland Division of Parole and Probation and over 20 years of as an attorney, advocating for people in both criminal and civil matters. I am well-prepared to make fair and sound decisions according to the rule of law, even in difficult or controversial matters.

**COURT NEEDS:** The greatest challenges would include lack of resources. There is a shortage of public interest attorneys to conduct prosecution, to defend those charged with crimes, and to represent people who have pending civil/family matters. Also, there is a lack of effective substance abuse/mental health resources, which can be addressed through financial allocation and collaborative partnerships.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** In order to reduce recidivism, there needs to be more continuity and partnership between the courts and rehabilitative service providers to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention for the offender and to more effectively hold the offender accountable for improving their lives. Also, counseling offenders to help them realize the value of improving their lives cannot be dismissed.

**DISCRIMINATION:** It is imperative that the courts treat all litigants with the utmost dignity, including being impartial. The court must continually examine itself to determine whether it is making findings based on applicable laws and the merits of the case and not on any preconceived notions or personal preferences; and be willing to re-examine any previous rulings, if relevant information is timely discovered.

## **John J. Kuchno**

### **Judicial**

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

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** After a comprehensive vetting process, both at the county and state levels, the Governor appointed me to the bench as the most qualified and best-suited candidate. I have been an attorney for nearly 35 years, in both private and public practice. For nearly a decade, I served the public as a Maryland Assistant Attorney General. I have served on the Circuit Court, handling a variety of cases.

**COURT NEEDS:** Particular needs of the court system are set forth by the Maryland Judiciary. As a judge on the bench in a Howard County, I cannot speak with a separate voice from that of the judicial branch. Judicial ethics also requires that I not comment on public policy issues that may come before the court. I defer to the leadership of the court system in Annapolis on those issues.

**REPEAT OFFENDERS:** As a sitting judge, I must remain impartial and without bias or prejudice. Therefore, I cannot comment on public policy issues or the position of the Maryland court system as set forth by our Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera of the Court of Appeals. Sentencing is among the most important roles of a judge. Each case is examined on its own merits, and judges must make fair and just dispositions.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Our system of justice demands that the court system act without bias or prejudice. Those mandates are made clear in the oath I took when sworn in as an Associate Judge on the Circuit Court for Howard County. For many years before assuming my position on the bench, I achieved the highest possible rating for judicial ethics. I am not permitted to make policy statements for the Maryland Judiciary.

## **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 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.

# Howard County Board of Education

**DUTIES:** The Board of Education of Howard County is responsible for setting local education policy consistent with state and federal laws governing public education. At the direction of the Board, the Superintendent and the school system's administrative staff develop procedures and administrative regulations to support policy decisions.

**SALARY:** \$18,000 chair, \$16,000 individual

**TERM:** 4 years, no term limit

**HOW ELECTED:** The Board is composed of seven members: five members elected by county council districts for four-year terms, and two members at-large elected countywide for four-year terms. A student member is elected by students for a one-year term.

## Issues

**TITLE 1:** Would you change how we allocate Title 1 funding in Howard County? Explain

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** What is your plan for closing the socio-economic and racial opportunity gap within Howard County Public Schools?

**TEACHING FORCE:** What strategies or ideas do you have to help diversify our teaching force to include more teachers of color?

**MENTAL HEALTH:** What strategies will you implement to improve access to mental health services within our schools?

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** What plan do you have to support special educators and families with special education students?

**SECURITY:** What additional security measures do you believe are needed in our schools?

**BUDGET:** What experience do you have in working with large budgets? How will you approach budgeting around our current deficit without cutting necessary programs?

## Board of Education District 1

### Candidates

Vote for 1

#### Christina Delmont-Small

Nonpartisan

**Campaign Website:** <http://christinaforboe.org>

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

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**TITLE 1:** No, not until we measure what we're doing now, analyze the data, and determine if the current Title 1 allocation model is working. We need to identify the supports/programs that best serve our students and determine which Title I funding model would reinforce them. We should conduct a thorough review of what we do now and made decisions based on data, not on anecdotal information.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** If a school is closing that gap, we should look at what best practices might be applied at other schools. We must also focus on each child's individual achievement gap and apply appropriate supports - one size does not fit all. Reading is a foundation of learning and without the ability to read the gap will continue to widen, so all students must be able to read at/above their grade level.

**TEACHING FORCE:** Recruitment is just the first step, we also need to develop and retain our teachers of color. We must look nationally at how other districts recruit/develop/retain teachers of color, collect and review HCPSS data to see where improvements are needed, and implement a process that includes measures so we can monitor success.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** HPCSS must continue to work and partner with public and private organizations who have expertise in providing mental health services, but do so in a way that protects the privacy of the students and their families. If we are going to fund additional mental health services additional funding will be needed.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** I'll work to fully fund Special Education and ensure we have highly qualified, appropriately trained teachers working with students with disabilities. We've increased the number of support staff instead of qualified teachers, and this ratio needs to be adjusted. We need a compliance position to check IEPs and identify areas for additional staff training to ensure IEP requirements are met.

**SECURITY:** We need to address bullying consistently across our schools. There are too many parents and students not being told there is a formal process for reporting bullying. We need to be vigilant in training school-based staff on bullying procedures and how to appropriately interact with both the victim and the alleged bully, and their families.

**BUDGET:** As an incumbent, and Operating Budget Review Committee member for 3 years before being elected to the BOE, I have a very good understanding of the budget. We must institute responsible budgeting and spending of tax dollars that takes into account current and future needs, and link funding decisions to data-driven student outcomes.

#### Matthew D. Molyett

Nonpartisan

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**TITLE 1:** I would consult with the PTSAs of Title 1 Elementary schools, the Title I Staff Members, appropriate staff, and the Superintendent about how effectively the school needs are being met. If the usage in place is demonstrated to be ineffective or wasteful then I would refine the Schoolwide Program to be more targeted if that was required to be a better steward of the taxpayer resources.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** I will support the DEI office efforts to educate our educators on the specialized needs of our diverse student body. I will assess the educator qualifications, tenure, and team efficacy of educators at each school to ensure parity at all schools. Using student success data and student demographic data, I will identify where achievement gaps occur and use the same data over time to assess progress.

**TEACHING FORCE:** I will support the DEI office efforts to amplify the voices of affinity groups to and within the administration to make sure the existing members of the teaching force are successfully retained and the hardships they have experienced are mitigated for future hires. I will support recruitment efforts to be targeted at universities that minimize the acceptance impact of donor or legacy admissions.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** I will support the administration and principals' efforts to facilitate a culture shift to reduce bullying related mental health stress. I will support mental health staffing in all schools. I will oppose armed and uniformed law enforcement in the schools. I will require school safety practices to include mental health impacts on students and staff as a major aspect in all strategic planning.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** I will support the identification and removal of systemic barriers to the identification of students in need of special education support. Families of students should not have to bear the financial burden of retaining counsel for the purpose of getting their students' needs recognized. I will support a review of the efficacy of special education support programs so that trouble spots can be fixed.

**SECURITY:** I will support a review of school discipline policies to ensure students are safe from disproportionate policing which involves the criminal justice system into situations that should be handled through proportionate education based conflict remediation. Students should not be exposed to firearms unrelated to educational pursuits.

**BUDGET:** I will focus on modernization, automation, and centralization to identify inefficiencies in vendor and contract management, data entry and duplication of effort, and potentially wasteful staffing. A modernization review of existing systems and processes in human resource management will reduce administrative waste and expensive delays in staffing and employee management.

# Board of Education District 2

## Candidates

Vote for 1

### Larry Pretlow, II

Nonpartisan

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**TITLE 1:** Title 1 schools require additional support and have intervention needs that may differ from other school communities. When we restructure school attendance areas based on the socio-economic status of the school population, we make it harder to dedicate needed resources to our Title 1 schools directly. I will work to ensure every Title 1 school has resource funding to meet individual student needs.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** I plan to ensure that we address the individual needs of every student without causing inconvenience to the student or their parents. There are socio-economic and racial opportunity gaps in Howard County. I will hold the county council accountable to the socio-economic needs and racial opportunity gaps of communities to develop practical solutions to improve the quality of life for all residents.

**TEACHING FORCE:** We have to make sure we have enough qualified teachers to educate every child. HCPSS has a diverse student population, and so I would work to encourage a diversity of educator-applicants to match the diversity of our student population. We have to also focus on culturally relevant curriculum with parent, student, and teacher input before implementation.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** I plan to work with Mental Health experts to ensure school counselors receive practical training on how to assess, identify, and approach the root causes of mental health issues. We must ensure counselors have a conceptual understanding of and can make practical recommendations to help students work towards healthy resolves to deal with root causes.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** I believe that special education students are already underserved, and there's not enough funding allocated to support special education. I first plan to increase community input to provide special education parents and teachers the rightful opportunities to work collaboratively with myself and my colleagues to develop an effective plan to support special educators, students, and their families.

**SECURITY:** I believe security measures we currently have in place have proven to be effective. We should never let a memorandum of understanding with the police expire. I want to include community input to make necessary updates to the memorandum to ensure it is respectful of student privacy and rights. I also want to ensure that appropriate personnel receives updated training on safety and security policy.

**BUDGET:** I have ten years of experience working in both management and supervisory roles, and I've gained the functioning experience required to effectively manage employee relations, evaluate employee performance, ensure productivity, and adhere to an established operating budget. Our school budget must be reviewed with a fine-tooth comb with input from all stakeholders. We have to see what is working.

### Antonia Barkley Watts

Nonpartisan

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**TITLE 1:** I support the HCPSS policy of concentrating Title I funding at the elementary level. Early intervention services can have a significant impact on educational outcomes and can increase long-term success. However, the funding is used for school-wide programming which can miss some of our neediest students. HCPSS should also use intensive one-on-one instruction to improve learning.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** Students from traditionally disadvantaged backgrounds have significantly fewer educational opportunities compared to their peers. This gap starts even before kindergarten. Children without access to early education may enter school up to two academic years behind their peers and may never catch up. I will work to expand the number of high quality and affordable pre-K programs in our schools.

**TEACHING FORCE:** Teacher diversity can greatly improve ALL students' outcomes through relationship building and cultural connections. We must actively recruit from teacher education programs with large populations of teachers of color like Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Then, to retain these teachers, we must also make the workplace welcoming through equity and implicit bias training.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** To improve access to services, it is necessary to increase the number of mental health professionals in each school. Also, it is important to expand training for everyone surrounding our young people to recognize warning signs and provide timely help. Early intervention is the best prevention. We also need to work to create inclusive and safe school climates and to build strong relationships.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Some parents feel overwhelmed and intimidated by the complex special education process creating a distrust in the system. This can be mitigated by developing knowledge-based guidelines to make the process more transparent and universally consistent. Special educators are stretched thin. Increasing the number of paraeducators alleviates some of their workload and allows more focus on students.

**SECURITY:** Any additional security measures should be proactive and should not interfere with the learning environment. This includes increasing access to mental health professionals, creating a positive school climate, and using restorative practices to foster positive relationships. A balance between physical safety and psychological health is important.

**BUDGET:** As an engineer, I managed the budget of several multimillion dollar vehicle programs. I serve on the Howard County Library Board of Trustees which requires understanding of a large budget and its impact on the fidelity of the system. I will focus on waste reduction and expanding partnerships with other county services. It is imperative that we prioritize services that directly impact our children.

## Board of Education District 3

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Tom Heffner**

**Nonpartisan**

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**TITLE 1:** Traditionally, this funding is used to provide additional staffing. I would propose funding resilience & character based interventions. I can't predict the future but I do know they will face adversity (more so while living in poverty). So it's best to teach them the cognitive tools of resilience so they can bounce back and push through the inevitable adversities they face.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** I'd work with County legislatures to identify initiatives for closing the gap. The gap begins long before school starts and only widens. I'd leverage my expertise

and experience in innovation to design a solution that meets the needs of those underperforming. This means, we'd spend time researching (e.g. interviewing, observing, etc.) the specific unmet needs and how we could design solutions.

**TEACHING FORCE:** I'm a fan of Malcolm Gladwell and he wrote about unconscious bias when he discussed how women were disproportionately shut out from Orchestra openings. When they began doing blind auditions, the number of women accepted rose dramatically. I think

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Previously I taught Resilience for the US Army - teaching Army soldiers the cognitive tools of resilience. The idea was that we could inoculate them against the psychological ills of war and the military. This equipped them with the skills to bounce back and push through the inevitable adversities they would face. Similarly, I would propose teaching students the cognitive tools of resilience..

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** I have a son who has ADHD and appreciate the hard work that special educators do in our schools. A big challenge I've encountered and heard from others, has been compliance with special education supports. A big part of that is that teachers don't have the time/resources to feel like they can comply. I would work to increase personnel support while decreasing non effective tasks (e.g. overcasting)

**SECURITY:** I've never thought HoCo schools needed more security. In my experience they have done well in this regard.

**BUDGET:** I've managed and led multi-million dollar programs while working with clients like the US Navy, Army, etc. I always kept my budget on time, on budget, and within scope. I'm very good at this. One thing I would do is work with teachers to identify what is NOT working. I have no shortage of stories of teachers telling me about things that are a complete waste of time and money. Those are easy wins.

## **Jolene Mosley**

### **Nonpartisan**

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**TITLE 1:** I would like to see schools above 60% FARMs, supported by a potential increase in the distribution of Title 1 funding. There should also be consideration in this analysis for the percentage of English Language Learners, students receiving special education services, and actual class sizes. I believe a closer look at the Title 1 allocations can contribute to closing significant opportunity gaps.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** I prefer a holistic approach that focuses on making students, educators and families feel welcome and valued, quality instruction from the beginning and a reduction of chronic absenteeism. I plan on supporting HCPSS with incorporating more inclusion work, updated anti-bias work for whole school populations, resources to incorporate diverse curriculum and materials, and restorative justice practice

**TEACHING FORCE:** I applaud the efforts taken to recruit teachers of color. Steps must also be taken to support and retain these educators. Expanding updated anti-bias work to encourage an inclusive environment will help us keep these valuable assets to our schools. Additionally, we need to ensure diverse materials are integrated into the libraries, text books and literature used in the curriculum and classroom.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** I would like to see more efforts made supporting and educating students not only self-care but also where safe places are to reach out for help. Feedback I hear from students is that they sometimes have questions and want to explore options but are unsure what is available. Classroom, current event discussions, school announcements and assemblies are great places to discuss mental health topics.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** The diverse needs of students demand that the school system adequately and transparently invest in a fully trained workforce. Early intervention, clearly-defined goals, workable caseloads, and communication should be emphasized so children can perform to their fullest potential, minimizing academic slides. We need to ensure HCPSS opportunities allow all abilities to be included and supported.

**SECURITY:** Students and staff should feel safe without being inhibited by extra security controls that create tension and interfere with a safe learning environment. I've learned that outside school hours custodial staff support security, giving them less time to complete their assigned duties. The schools have both SROs and SAs. These resources could be staggered to fill the after-hours security gap.

**BUDGET:** Working on the OBRC, I recommended PMs identify program areas that can withstand trimming and those that are on the cusp of not being able to maintain their vitality. The current budget deficits are impacting programs, increasing class size and depleting the general fund balance. Funding formulas should include HCPSS student enrollment as well as non HCPSS students utilizing transportation service

## Board of Education District 4

### Candidates

Vote for 1

**Jen Mallo**

**Nonpartisan**

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

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**TITLE 1:** We need to be more intentional with differentiated staffing, including Title I. HCPSS should allocate additional staff at all Title I schools and schools with high socio-economic need. Using Title I funds (only 0.5% of the budget) at the elementary level is critical-early intervention has the great, long-term impact on students. Changing would disadvantage our neediest students even more.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** To close gaps, budget priorities must staff positions that can have the biggest impact. Successful programs like reading and math support teachers, Black, Hispanic, and International Achievement Liaisons, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion positions have not kept pace with enrollment growth. We must develop budgetary formulas to increase these positions annually to support students.

**TEACHING FORCE:** Student teachers and recruitment should come from more HBCUs, like Howard, Hampton, and UDC. We need to hire administrators of color and retain current educators of color. If we cannot keep those we recruit, then diversification will be an endless cycle of insufficiency. Newly hired educators need great mentoring, professional development, and affinity/support groups of similar teachers.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Continue and grow partnerships with organizations that provide grants, services, and supports for our students experiencing emotional crises. We need to seek additional funding to pay for more school based mental health experts; teach social-emotional learning to students to potentially short-circuit later problems; and provide robust education in digital citizenship to prevent cyber-bullying.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** We need to increase special education staff. Current educators are overburdened. Absent steady, consistent, significant growth of staff, we cannot continue the current model nor improve service. Special education families already face difficult challenges, HCPSS should not be the source of more. With increased staffing, we can relieve strain, reduce caseloads, and better meet service needs.

**SECURITY:** Every school needs to have secure vestibules where entry is controlled, a working LobbyGuard™ system to check and keep track of visitors and check sex-offender registries. School Resource Officers in schools need continuing education to develop skills to build community, to practice restorative justice, and not be involved in discipline (which can increase the school to prison pipeline).

**BUDGET:** As a current Board member, I am experienced in making tough decisions for the nearly billion-dollar school system budget, using my degree in economics and my training in data analytics to make smart, prioritized choices. I collaborate and communicate well with our funding authorities and participated in developing a plan to eliminate the deficit. I offer solutions rather than just vote no.

## **Sezin Palmer**

### **Nonpartisan**

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**TITLE 1:** I would revisit Title I funding allocation, and recommend considering a shift from a school-wide model to a targeted approach that better supports disadvantaged students. Also, Title I funds are currently used for a range of activities, including general training. I would advocate using funds only for targeted activities that correspond to better educational outcomes for disadvantaged students.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** I would begin by spending Title I funds on the most disadvantaged students to provide these students with the appropriate support, including tutoring and supplemental instruction. I would also advocate for early screening for health/social services, providing education opportunities to parents and consider creating magnet programs in schools serving high concentrations of low income students.

**TEACHING FORCE:** Minority teachers comprise 27% of the workforce, yet the percentage of minorities in the community is 44%. To close that gap, I would engage more minorities in the recruiting process and better target recruiting efforts to improve the pipeline of minority applicants. Hiring minority leaders, including principals and central office staff, is also critical to improving workforce diversity.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** To address the mental health crisis facing our students, I would focus on training for all educators to recognize and appropriately respond to the warning signs of mental health concerns. We must provide educators and staff with the proper resources to focus on student well-being. Emphasizing testing and measures that focus on school performance should not be the sole focus of our educators.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** There are two critical aspects of special education challenges that I would address. First is proper training for educators and support staff who interact with our special education students. While we need to increase the total number of special educators, we must ensure they are properly trained (OG). Second, I would focus on regular assessments of performance and make adjustments as needed.

**SECURITY:** The security challenges in our schools are twofold: physical security of buildings and the mental health of our children. While some measures have been taken to address physical security, at the core of many challenges are the mental health issues that plague our children. We must better address depression, anxiety and bullying behavior across our schools to prevent these crises from occurring.

**BUDGET:** I have executive leadership responsibility in a >\$1.5B organization and extensive experience successfully leading organizations while balancing limited resources. I would take a more rigorous approach to decision-making that would use data, community input, and objective analysis to prioritize the most critical needs associated with educational outcomes and identify the most responsible solutions.

**Julie Hotopp**

**Nonpartisan**

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**TITLE 1:** I would not change the allocation method. I grew up in poverty and know all too well the stigma associated with poverty. The current model, which provides services to all students in a school with >40% FARMs participation, ensures that kids targeted by the program can get the assistance they need while avoiding that stigma. I want all kids to know that the world is their playground.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** We need to address more root causes. For instance, there are students who frequently switch between adjacent schools mid-year due to apartment rent-related issues, causing educational instability. Let’s explore a program that allows those kids to remain at their original school for the remainder of the year, providing stability for both the child and potentially staffing within the school system.

**TEACHING FORCE:** Given the nationwide shortage of African American and Hispanic teachers, we need to make sure we retain teachers representing our diversity. We need targeted, aggressive recruitment efforts at local colleges and universities with teaching programs. And we need to encourage and enable diverse men and women to become teachers through more programs like the Para to Teacher program.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** We need to advocate to ensure there are enough mental health workers in schools to keep up with the increase in mental health issues. We also need to address the stigma that surrounds mental health. Ensuring that there is an age-appropriate curriculum on mental health from pre-K to graduation would destigmatize mental health care and encourage children to seek out services when they need them

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** We need to advocate for more special education funding and find ways to also cut costs. To cut costs, I would advocate for programs to train teachers to appropriately assess and identify children in early grade levels for learning disabilities and to rapidly deploy remediation as early as possible. Early intervention is the least expensive and most successful intervention. It is fiscally prudent.

**SECURITY:** Investing in mental health is an excellent way to improve security at schools. Mental health services lead to lower rates of suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary incidents while improving attendance, academic achievement, and graduation rates. We also need to examine if a different model of protector/enforcer could improve security instead of police-affiliated student resource officers.

**BUDGET:** I write and administer multi-year multi-million dollar budgets that fund my research group. Many of HCPSS’s current problems leading to cuts in necessary problems are due to the multi-year healthcare deficit. I am shocked at how wrong the actuarial estimates were for so many consecutive years and will work to ensure that this has been adequately addressed to ensure it does not happen again.

## **Board of Education District 5**

### **Candidates**

Vote for 1

**Yun Lu**

**Nonpartisan**

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**TITLE 1:** Yes. HCPSS allocates the funds to 13 Title I elementary schools to operate school wide programs. The disadvantaged students in non-Title I schools will not benefit from the program. I propose to continue using a large part of the Title I funding to school wide programs and start a pilot program to apply a small part of the funding to improve high school dropout rates for disadvantaged students.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** Addressing the root cause of opportunity gap involves efforts outside of school system. The schools need to foster a positive learning environment, take time to understand the students, help them gain confidence, motivate them to learn, and adopt teaching methods that sufficiently address student need. The schools can provide free tutoring services to disadvantaged students and help them improve.

**TEACHING FORCE:** Since there are only a limited number of teachers of color in the potential teaching force pool, we need to encourage more colored students to become teachers. To inspire students of color, we can help them identify role models that they could relate to other than race, such as a teacher who came from poverty, a teacher who is a non-native speaker, a teacher who overcame obstacles.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** In public health, education, early detection, early intervention are effective strategies. It is essential for school system to raise mental health awareness among students, parents, teachers, and communities, and provide trainings so people know how to appropriately react. The Schools need to work on changing the overall environment so students can feel comfortable talking about mental health.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** We need to advocate for more local, state and federal funding for special education and more training for special educators. The Schools need to raise special education awareness among parents, teachers, so they can detect symptoms early. Early detection and early intervention can help special education students improve significantly and relief the work load of special educators in the long run.

**SECURITY:** Fostering a welcoming and safe environment helps improve security since a good environment brings the best out of each other. The schools need to provide security trainings, provide preparedness procedures, establish reporting and monitoring system to detect security threats early, and act accordingly. Schools can adopt security system to conduct quick background check on visitors.

**BUDGET:** I have been a Federal Acquisition Certified Contracting Officer's Representative for almost ten years and participated in the procurement processes. I will approach budgeting by closely looking at the contracts to see whether they provide the best value for the school system, looking into ways to attract more bidders and lower the contracting prices. I want to put the resources in the classroom.

## **Cindy Vaillancourt**

### **Nonpartisan**

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**TITLE 1:** Many years ago the decision was made to concentrate the use of Title 1 funds in the elementary schools. The theory being that early intervention is the most effective. I continue to believe that is true. However, we have older students who have unmet needs. I would like to see HCPSS evaluate options for using some Title 1 funding for the benefit of eligible older students.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** Adequate staffing and small class sizes must be maintained for our most vulnerable students. I support providing elementary and middle schools that run on a 9-week on/3-week off calendar that would be VOLUNTARY, with opportunities for enrichment, remediation, and mini camps offered at little or no cost during the 3 week off periods. This has proved very effective for the most vulnerable students.

**TEACHING FORCE:** The HCPSS MUST alter its hiring schedule and offer "open contracts" so active recruitment efforts (including at HBCUs) can lead to hiring great candidates before they commit to other systems. After hiring, however, HCPSS MUST provide mentoring, support, and professional development for all of our new teachers, but especially teachers of color who face additional obstacles.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Starting with providing properly staffed and nurturing classrooms as a preventive measure for the anxiety, stress, and mental health issues that plague our children, we must provide training to the classroom educators to identify issues early, adequate counseling and psychologist services at school, and a robust referral operation for ongoing care - including on site access to follow up care.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Appropriate staffing levels of properly credentialed and trained educators and support staff, is critical to all students. None are currently receiving our promised level of service, but especially our special education students. Years of cuts to special education staff and programming have led to an untenable situation. Acknowledging this truth is the first step, with investment following.

**SECURITY:** The most effective security measure is properly staffed schools with well-trained educators and staff with the time and resources to know their students, and see and respond to distressed students in a timely way; to intervene before crisis situations erupt. Taking money out of the classrooms to build up a system to respond to crisis caused by the lack of classroom resources has failed miserably.

**BUDGET:** I have 8 years of firsthand experience with the HCPSS budget, including seeing what has not worked. "Zero based" budgeting has not really occurred in the past, but should be implemented as a reset for the system. The budget should be rebuilt from the "bottom up"- starting with the classrooms, educators in front of students, and the resources they need. All choices should begin with the classroom.

## 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.

## **Local Ballot Questions**

### **Howard County Question A**

#### **Charter Amendment Redistricting Dates**

Changing the Howard County Charter to allow the County Council to set dates for drawing new Council district borders. After each official count of everyone who lives in the County,

the Council would quickly form a redistricting commission and set dates for the commission to submit a plan for new Council district borders, and for the plan to become law if the Council does not adopt a different plan. The dates for these actions are now set by the County Charter, which uses an outdated State election schedule.

## **Howard County Question B**

### **Charter Amendment Citizen Board Term**

Changing the Howard County Charter to shorten the term a resident would serve as a member on most County boards from five years to three years.

## **Howard County Question C**

### **Charter Amendment County Employment Discrimination**

Changing the Howard County Charter to prohibit employment discrimination by Howard County based on a person's disability, color, national origin, immigration status, age, occupation, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, or personal appearance. The prohibition would no longer include the word sex and the County could still not make an employment decision based on a person's political or religious opinions or associations or race.

## **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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