



Montgomery 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.

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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.

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

Now until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Montgomery County Board of Elections, 18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
- City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave, Rockville, MD 20850
- Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850

September 28-30 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
- Clarksburg High School, 22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD, 20871
- Col. Zadok Magruder High School, 5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville, MD, 20855
- Damascus Community Recreation Center, 25520 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD, 20872
- Germantown Community Recreation Center, 18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown, MD, 20874
- Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815
- Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center, 14906 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD, 20866
- Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20906
- Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, MD, 20901
- Montgomery Co. Conference Center, Marriott Bethesda North, 5967 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, MD, 20852
- Nancy H. Dacek N. Potomac Community Recreation Center, 13850 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD, 20850
- Poolesville High School, 17501 West Willard Road, Poolesville, MD, 20837
- Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD, 20854
- Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department, 17921 Brooke Road, Sandy Spring, MD, 20860
- Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD, 20910
- Springbrook High School, 201 Valley Brook Drive, Silver Spring, MD, 20904
- Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Boulevard, Bethesda, MD, 20817
- Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879
- Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD, 20906
- Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center, 11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD, 20902
- White Oak Community Recreation Center, 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring, MD, 20904

October 1 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912

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

- Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, MD, 20895
- Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School, 4301 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD, 20814
- Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD, 20872
- Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
- James Hubert Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20905
- John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20902
- Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD, 20874
- Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West, Silver Spring, MD, 20901

- Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD, 20866
- Quince Orchard High School, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD, 20878
- Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville, MD, 20852
- Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD, 20851
- Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown, MD, 20874
- Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD, 20850
- Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20814
- Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac, MD, 20854

October 22-24 until 8 p.m. on November 3

- Bette Carol Thompson Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center, 7700 Scotland Drive, Potomac, MD 20854
- East County Community Recreation Center, 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904
- Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- Gwendolyn E. Coffield Community Recreation Center, 2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910
- Longwood Community Recreation Center, 19300 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville, MD 20833
- Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901
- Robertson Park Youth Center, 801 Rabbitt Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- Sherwood High School, 300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860
- Upper County Community Recreation Center, 8201 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Early Voting Sites

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

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
- Damascus Community Recreation Center, 25520 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD, 20872
- Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD, 20850
- Germantown Community Recreation Center, 18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown, MD, 20874
- Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815
- Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center, 14906 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD, 20866
- Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20906
- Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD, 20854
- Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department, 17921 Brooke Road, Sandy Spring, MD, 20860
- Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD, 20910
- Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center, 11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD, 20902

Additional Voting Sites on Election Day

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

- Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, MD, 20895
- Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School, Cafeteria and Gymnasium, 4301 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD, 20814
- Clarksburg High School, 22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD, 20871
- Col. Zadok Magruder High School, 5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville, MD, 20855
- Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD, 20872

- Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
- James Hubert Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20905
- John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20902
- Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, MD, 20901
- Montgomery Co. Conference Center, Marriott Bethesda North, 5967 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, MD, 20852
- Nancy H. Dacek N. Potomac Community Recreation Center, 13850 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD, 20850
- Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD, 20874
- Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West, Silver Spring, MD, 20901
- Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD, 20866
- Poolesville High School, 17501 West Willard Road, Poolesville, MD, 20837
- Quince Orchard High School, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD, 20878
- Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville, MD, 20852
- Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD, 20851
- Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown, MD, 20874
- Sherwood High School, 300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring, MD, 20860
- Springbrook High School, 201 Valley Brook Drive, Silver Spring, MD, 20904
- Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD, 20850
- Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Boulevard, Bethesda, MD, 20817
- Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20814
- Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879
- Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD, 20906
- White Oak Community Recreation Center, 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring, MD, 20904
- Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac, MD, 20854

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). 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

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: 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?

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

Campaign Email: 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 6

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-parrottforgress](https://www.instagram.com/instagram-parrottforgress)

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."

Congressional District 8

Candidates

Vote for 1

Gregory Thomas Coll

Republican Party

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/gregorycoll2>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/collforcongress

Campaign Email: info@gregorycoll.com

Campaign Phone: (386) 679-1251

GOALS: I, Gregory Coll, am happy to announce my run for U.S. Congress Maryland District 8 to represent the people. Work in Washington is at a standstill, I, Gregory Coll, want to stop the distractions and keep focus on key issues impacting Americans including: employment, budget, healthcare, education, environment, military and defense, law and order, and the national space policy. www.gregorycoll.com

IMMIGRATION: I, Gregory Coll, want to promote and welcome legal immigration and put a stop to illegal border crossings. Passing legislation to up the legal immigration caps, and making it simpler for legal immigration processing is key; especially when the individuals have studied in the U.S. and have employment sponsored support. I, Gregory Coll, want to attract the best people from around the world.

HEALTH CARE: No, I, Gregory Coll, know patients should come first in U.S. healthcare. Healthcare systems run by governments are inefficient, reduce standards of care, and diminish patient and physician relationships. Healthcare based in free market principals, promotes competition, drives down costs and gives the power to patients and physicians. Flexible Spending Accounts unspent money should roll over.

ENVIRONMENT: Our environment needs to be conserved and maintained for future generations. I, Gregory Coll want to study and address environmental concerns, stop pollution, and stop over-stressing our natural resources, especially marine resources like fisheries. I, Gregory Coll, believe climate change is real and needs to be addressed rationally and with an associated risk and return posture.

GUN SAFETY: I, Gregory Coll, want to support local police stop criminal activity and crack down on illegal possession of fire arms, without sacrificing law abiding citizens' rights to bear arms. For more information please visit www.gregorycoll.com.

ECONOMY: I, Gregory Coll, know that we can rebuild the greatest economy in history and lift millions of Americans out of poverty, helping them secure high paying jobs, and be self-reliant. Making resources available to our top scientists working on a vaccine, and having the capacity to produce and distribute the vaccine are key. For more information please visit www.gregorycoll.com.

DISCRIMINATION: I, Gregory Coll, believe in equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. Stopping bias based programs will help eliminate discrimination. Making resources available to our top scientists working on a vaccine, and having the capacity to produce and distribute the vaccine are key. visit www.gregorycoll.com.

STUDENT LOANS: I, Gregory Coll, believe that the cost of college education is on an increasing trajectory, has been rising ahead of inflation year after year, and needs to be more affordable for students. Cooperation between industry, government and higher education institutions will allow more resources for education and lower tuition for students, reducing student loan debt. Please visit www.gregorycoll.com.

Jamie Raskin

Democratic Party

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/raskin.jamie/>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/jamie_raskin

Campaign Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/raskinforcongress/?hl=en>

Campaign Email: info@jamieraskin.com

Campaign Phone: (240) 847-4937

GOALS: To provide the best possible constituent services to the people of Montgomery, Frederick and Carroll Counties; To restore the government as an instrument of the common good and social progress; And to defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights, strong democracy, and the rule of law.

IMMIGRATION: We need to end the cruel and inhumane treatment of children and families at our border and stop funding the president's dangerous and profligate border wall; restore protections for refugees and asylum seekers; and pass HR 6, the Dream and Promise Act, to provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers and families that have lived here for years due to disaster or conflict in their home countries.

HEALTH CARE: I have consistently fought to defend the ACA and the lifesaving coverage it provides to millions of individuals with preexisting conditions. While I work to protect the ACA, I strongly support moving towards a single-payer universal healthcare system that does not exclude anyone and saves hundreds of billions of dollars spent on insurance bureaucracy.

ENVIRONMENT: We must reorganize the federal government to effectively confront this civilizational crisis. I support policies to transition to a green economy, invest in clean energy technologies and help fossil fuel industry workers retrain for new jobs. My colleagues and I are also working on a plan to revitalize America's ailing infrastructure in a way that advances our urgent environmental goals.

GUN SAFETY: I support a universal background check; a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; and barring violently dangerous people from possessing or purchasing firearms; and will not rest until we hold the gun industry accountable for its role in deadly firearm-involved violence. I worked and voted to pass several bills out of the Judiciary Committee including HR 8, HR 1186, HR 1236 & HR 2708.

ECONOMY: We need to reverse the GOP tax scam that gave massive corporations outrageous tax cuts while increasing taxes on middle-class families. We need to support working families by raising the minimum wage—and all wages by promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively, lowering healthcare costs, providing paid family leave, promoting debt-free college and expanding affordable housing.

DISCRIMINATION: On the Judiciary and Oversight Committees I'm working to expand voting rights; protect freedom of religion while stopping the new argument that businesses have a religious right to discriminate against LGBTQ Americans; protect equal employment rights; stop sexual harassment; and include the disabled. We need strong laws to block violations of civil rights and civil liberties of the people.

STUDENT LOANS: I support efforts to provide relief to the millions of Americans struggling with student loan debt, including HR 2186, HR 770, HR 2648, and HR 1070. Also, as Representative of tens of thousands of dedicated public servants, I am working to defend and strengthen the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 6

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 4

Bibi M. Berry

Judicial

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

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

Campaign Email: electjudgeberry@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 220-2012

QUALIFICATIONS: I worked in the legal field for over 24 years. I have represented adults and children in family cases, am mediation trained, and have taught family law and litigation at multiple educational and professional levels. This experience is ideal for developing great listening skills, strong instincts, empathy, legal acumen and strong decision-making abilities.

COURT NEEDS: Education and broadening perspective are significant challenges. I am on the Judicial Education Subcommittee of the Judicial Council for Maryland's Judiciary where we work to develop educational programs that focus on identifying and combating bias, understanding human development, learning cultural differences and appreciating the value of non-traditional solutions.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: The courts must support intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships to supply substance abuse and mental health treatment for offenders, work release programs, vocational training, and reentry services for adults and youth.

DISCRIMINATION: We must acknowledge the existence of implicit and explicit bias and understand the myriad ways bias impacts us in our interactions, daily choices, values, belief systems and our decision-making, and we must support and participate in educational programs that teach us different perspectives.

David A. Boynton

Judicial

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

Campaign Email: electjudgeboynton@gmail.com

QUALIFICATIONS: For the last 16 years as a judge, and prior to that, for 17 years as a prosecutor and 3 years as a trial lawyer in private practice, I have handled thousands of criminal, civil, family and juvenile cases. That experience, along with that gained from

raising a family and community involvement has provided me with the knowledge, wisdom, judgement and compassion needed to serve as a judge.

COURT NEEDS: Ensuring easy court access and managing increasing caseloads create big challenges. To facilitate access, our court provides free child care to litigants, knowledgeable and helpful support staff, free legal advice regarding legal procedures, and foreign language interpreters. Growing caseloads require policies that streamline procedures and provide opportunity for early resolution of cases.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Where appropriate, the rate of recidivism can be reduced by recognizing and addressing the root causes of most criminal behavior. Addiction treatment services, medical and mental health services, job training and educational certificates, and other important life skills can be provided in Drug Court, Mental Health Court and community-based court supervision in the form of probation.

DISCRIMINATION: The risk of bias influencing the outcome of court cases can be reduced by selecting the right applicants to serve as judges. Adhering to a stringent application, vetting and appointment process is vital to identifying those who possess the highest legal qualifications as well as the understanding of and sensitivity to ethnic, racial, cultural, gender, socio-economic and other diversity issues.

Christopher C. Fogleman

Judicial

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

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/ElectFogleman

Campaign Instagram: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/bestbenchformontgomery>

Campaign Email: electjudgeccf@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 244-9801

QUALIFICATIONS: As an Assistant Public Defender for 3 years and an attorney in private practice for 30 years, I have represented a diverse group of people who often were at the lowest point of their lives. This experience has well prepared me to be a judge, where I often see people confronting possible jail time, seeking compensation for financial losses, or experiencing the breakup of family relationships.

COURT NEEDS: The court system is challenged by the increasing number of litigants who cannot afford an attorney to assist them with the judicial process. The court system needs to ensure a fair and balanced judicial process for all litigants regardless of whether they are represented by counsel. Also, access to the courts must be enhanced for non-English speakers and persons with disabilities.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Specialty courts, like drug courts and mental health courts, play an important role in addressing recidivism. Our drug and mental health courts have had success in reducing recidivism. I am one of three judges assigned to our mental health court. Judges should also consider the offender's potential for rehabilitation, consistent with public safety, in their sentencing decisions.

DISCRIMINATION: After they have been appointed, judges participate in the New Trial Judges Orientation program, which includes a focus on bias. Each year thereafter, judges attend a judicial conference which also includes programs addressing bias. This judicial education helps reduce the risk that bias will influence the outcome of judicial proceedings. Judges must always be aware of potential implicit bias.

Thomas P. Johnson, III (Write-in)

Judicial

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

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/tpjforjudge

Campaign Instagram: @tpjforjudge

Campaign Email: tpjforjudge@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 367-1606

QUALIFICATIONS: WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE. NAME WILL NOT APPEAR ON BALLOT. HAS TO BE WRITTEN IN. Website: tpjohnsonforjustice.com. Law practice since 1993; Licenses DC, MD & LA. Handled complex litigation claims in administrative, federal and state proceedings. Have extensive legal experience and knowledge in administrative, federal & state court proceedings.

COURT NEEDS: The Court needs judges who hold no opinions of others based on ethnicity or race. Judges with NO explicit or implicit biases. Judges that will be fair and impartial, respecting all individuals who appear before a judge.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Recidivism can be reduced by making competent mental health care experts available to repeat offenders. People with behavioral and substance abuse challenges must have access to mental health. Incarceration does more harm than good for non-violent crimes.

DISCRIMINATION: As a person of color I have no explicit or implicit biases; no economic or gender biases. I will be fair and respectful to all who come before me and will form no preconceived opinions about individuals in court proceedings. I do not believe in police qualified immunity. Police officers must be treated like ordinary citizens. I am for judicial and police reform.

Michael Joseph McAuliffe

Judicial

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://Michaelmcauliffe2020>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/ElectJudgeMike

Campaign Email: electjudgemcauliffe@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (443) 574-5318

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been a trial lawyer in Montgomery County for 32 years. I have tried hundreds of civil, criminal and family cases ranging from homicides to divorces, and from medical malpractice cases to workers' compensation claims. In the course of this career, I have represented individuals, families and small businesses. This career has shown how to make sure people receive justice in our courts.

COURT NEEDS: So many litigants seek help from our Courts but do not have lawyers helping them. Many feel overwhelmed. Our Courts do not exist just for the wealthy, or just for English speakers. Montgomery County has created centers for free advice on legal procedures, provided interpreters, and provided childcare to needy litigants. Every judge encourages self-represented litigants to use these resources.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: We often see recidivism related to drug addiction, alcoholism and mental health issues. Montgomery County judges formed the Drug/Alcohol Court and the Mental Health Court to deal with these underlying issues. We give people the opportunity to take control of their lives and change destructive behaviors. We all benefit from these programs, which are being copied around the state.

DISCRIMINATION: Bias can destroy people's faith in the judicial system. The best way to deal with it is through strict vetting of judges. We need judges who have dealt with serious matters throughout their professional lives and shown the highest levels of fairness, ethics and professionalism. In addition, hearings in Court are open to the public and are recorded so that we have a solid record of what happens.

Marylin Pierre

Judicial

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

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

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/PierreForJudge

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

Campaign Email: MarylinForMaryland@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 279-9020

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been practicing law for over 28 years. I am a litigator with significant experience representing clients in trial and appellate courts. Some of my cases have established precedents in Maryland. I am an army veteran, a winner of Maryland's Top 100 Women Award (3X), and a winner of the Leadership in Law Award and the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee Community Service Award.

COURT NEEDS: Racism, sexism, and classism are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's court system. The system is getting worst. Maryland incarcerates a higher percentage of its young black men than any other state in the country. (See my website.) Women's voices are routinely ignored, to their detriment. Regardless of your race or gender, the higher your class, the more likely you are to receive mercy.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: To reduce recidivism, people have to be given the tools they need to succeed. Sometimes the difference between success and failure comes down to something small but necessary (education, economic opportunity, substance use treatment, transportation). The courts cannot provide these services but they can help connect people with agencies and nonprofits that provide the resources they need.

DISCRIMINATION: Leadership will reduce the risk that bias will influence the outcome of legal proceedings. My military commander had a zero-tolerance policy towards any type of discrimination. He internalized equality and we, in turn, learned to internalize it too. Because he saw us as equals, we saw each other as equals and we did not discriminate against each other. It sounds simple but it really works.

Judge, Court of Appeals, Circuit 7

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

SALARY: \$191,433, annual base.

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

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

Issues

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

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

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

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

Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

Mary Ellen Barbera

Judicial

QUALIFICATIONS: I have served as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals since 2013, after being appointed to the Court in 2008. I served on the Court of Special Appeals from 2002 to 2008. I served as Deputy Counsel, then Chief Legal Counsel to Maryland's Governor from 1998 to 2002. From 1985 to 1998, I was an Assistant Attorney General in the Maryland Attorney General's Office's Criminal Appeals Division.

COURT NEEDS: The Maryland Judiciary must continue to provide access to justice to all in Maryland. We must reexamine and revise policies and procedures to increase such access

and ensure fairness to all.

REPEAT OFFENDERS: Nearly 60 drug courts and other problem-solving courts are operating in 21 of 24 Maryland jurisdictions, with more being developed. These courts work to help nonviolent offenders overcome addiction and establish stable, law-abiding lives that strengthen families and communities. The collaboration required to make these courts successful is a model for other efforts to reduce recidivism.

DISCRIMINATION: The promise of democracy depends upon equal justice under law. I issued the Statement on Equal Justice Under Law to reaffirm, as Chief Judge, my commitment to that promise. At my direction, the Judicial Council added a standing Committee on Equal Justice to identify what must be changed, internally and externally, so we can identify and defeat explicit and implicit bias in the justice system.

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 7

Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

Steven B. Gould

No response received by deadline.

Montgomery County Board of Education

DUTIES: The Montgomery County Board of Education is responsible for the direction and operation of the public school system. Members of the Board of Education determine and enforce policies that govern the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The Board's responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: selecting and appointing the superintendent of schools, adopting operating and capital budgets, establishing curriculum guides, and establishing school boundaries.

HOW ELECTED: The Board of Education is composed of two at large members who may live anywhere in the county and five members who must reside in the districts that they represent. The terms are staggered, with one at large and two or three district members being elected every two years. Elections for Board of Education members are non-partisan. All voters, regardless of the district they live in or party affiliation, may vote for one at large candidate and one candidate from each district.

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

SALARY: \$25,000 per year.

WEBSITE: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/

WHO MAY VOTE? You do not need to be registered with a party to vote for the Montgomery County Board of Education.

You may vote only for one (1) candidate for at large Board of Education member, one (1) candidate for District 2 Board of Education member, and one (1) candidate for District 4 Board of Education member. The two candidates receiving the most votes for at large and District 2 will appear on the General Election ballot.

Issues

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

OPPORTUNITY GAP: What approaches do you support to provide equitable countywide student access to experienced teachers and administrators and a diverse set of programs?

BOUNDARY CHANGES: What factors do you think are most important in considering changes to school boundaries?

FUNDING: Which recommendations by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education should be given the highest priority?

SCHOOL SAFETY: How would you address school safety issues such as gun violence, gang problems and bullying?

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: What programs do you propose to address vocational preparation and opportunities for non-college bound students?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: How will you obtain and use community and parent/student views in making Board decisions?

PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities?

Board of Education At Large

Candidates

Vote for 1

Sunil Dasgupta

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://sunildasgupta.com>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/sunildasgupta4

Campaign Instagram: [@sunildasgupta4](https://www.instagram.com/sunildasgupta4)

Campaign Email: friends4sunil@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (240) 554-5923

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a first-generation immigrant and a parent of 3 MCPS students. I have 20 years of classroom teaching and policy research experience, 11 of them teaching MCPS graduates. I have worked with budgets, financial reports, and data. I have been an

MCCPTA committee chair and PTA president and am the founder of an annual countywide Mental Health and Wellness Forum for students/families.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: We need to reduce class size/staff ratios by hiring more teachers, staff, and counselors. We should consult with teachers and staff to bring more training, diverse content, and an inclusive school culture for all. We need to keep staff and programs in schools currently facing pressures of under-enrollment, expand hiring to encourage diversity, and consider the possibility of higher pay.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: I have studied and written articles investigating this complex issue. After decades of massive demographic and population change—and 100 overcrowded and 99 under-enrolled schools--boundary changes are inevitable. We can guarantee predictability and adjacency of school assignments by developing a regular, transparent, and fair process of systemwide review and adjustments. <https://bit.ly/2SMdVv7>

FUNDING: We have to prioritize pre-k expansion, then academic support and wraparound services including counselors, high quality and diverse teachers, and career pathways for students. Achieving these goals really means hiring more teachers and staff. This election itself is about governance and accountability, the last Kirwan recommendation. I want a BOE that is able to govern MCPS more effectively.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Address physical security by reducing portable use, adding entrance vestibules, and cameras that work. Long-term, use educational approaches, not more police officers inside schools. More counselors, trauma-informed, restorative practices, teacher diversity, and ultimately teacher/staff ratios so students actually have a trusted adult in the building. Rebuild the home and school partnership.

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: Reducing class size allows more specialist courses to run with fewer students right in assigned home schools. Start early in middle school with robust courses such as in coding—a career choice that doesn't need a college degree. More student media and early childhood career pathways. We need effective internship coordinators to develop relationships with local organizations to place students.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: I will have a direct and open relationship with families, students, teachers and staff, and reach out to under-represented groups. The onus is on BOE members to get out more, not to wait for public hearings alone. BOE should develop a regular process of addressing constituent requests. Personally, I plan to visit each cluster annually and regularly hold informal "office hours" with stakeholders.

PRIORITIES: Expand hiring to address class size/staff ratios. Rebuild the home and school partnership. Invest in the health and safety of our students and staff, including mental health and wellness. But we have to find the money and have strong leadership on the BOE. The county and the state will provide new funding and we should rebalance capital and operating budgets to free more resources.

Lynne Harris

Nonpartisan

Campaign Website: <http://lynne4students.org>

Campaign Facebook: <http://Lynne4students>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/Lynne4Students

Campaign Instagram: [Lynne4Students](https://www.instagram.com/Lynne4Students)

Campaign Email: lynne4students@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301) 946-8461

QUALIFICATIONS: Years of experience in nursing, law, public health & teaching prepare me to address the array of issues confronting our school system. My deep knowledge of MCPS gained from ten years of substantive MCPS advocacy means I will be ready to serve on day one. Having prioritized student & family engagement, I know the wisdom of students, teachers, parents & staff is essential to all MCPS decision-making

OPPORTUNITY GAP: Place experienced, highly effective teachers & administrators in the most challenged schools. Ensure all academic & other opportunities are truly accessible to all students – looking at geographic placement across the county, transit as a resource, & as

a last resort online access. Implement the community schools model at schools where poverty level (FARMs as proxy) exceeds 37% (countywide FARMs)

BOUNDARY CHANGES: System-wide, at all levels, MCPS enrollment about equals MCPS capacity yet we have massively under- and over- enrolled schools. We need a commonsense reboot to end that imbalance and use our capital dollars more effectively. We also need more equitable schools- no more pockets of poverty where FARMs rates greatly exceed the countywide rate of 37%.

FUNDING: All 5 policy areas are mission critical. I would prioritize High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders, and More Resources for Students to be Successful. Those address the need for instructional excellence in every classroom, ensuring teachers have the tools they need to support diverse learning needs, and the importance of all students seeing themselves reflected in their school's staff

SCHOOL SAFETY: School climate and student safety & well-being go hand-in-hand. All teachers & staff need substantive training in trauma-informed practices to ensure our schools are warm, welcoming spaces in which all students & staff feel safe & valued, and no one falls through the cracks. Mental wellness services need to be readily available, & self-care needs to be intentionally included in every school day

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: MCPS has great CTE programs concentrated at Edison and next Fall Seneca Valley, as well as scattered at many other high schools. Students are earning valuable industry certifications & getting professional experience. We need to ensure all students are aware of & can access any program of interest regardless of their home high school. Not just non-college bound - all students can benefit from CTE

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: BOE decisions must be infused with substantive stakeholder input – teachers, staff, students, parents. Each has unique wisdom about MCPS that must be understood in order to make the best decisions. A regular process of meeting, engaging, information-sharing, & civil discussion is key. The BOE must proactively ensure that all voices are heard, not just the loudest, most organized, or most angry

PRIORITIES: 1. Student Voice - operationalize real processes to bring the wisdom and experience of students to the table for every MCPS decision. 2. Open Data- MCPS must transparently share data so that all stakeholders see and know the same things at the same time, & can bring collective expertise to the problem-solving process. 3. Consistency – of programs, opportunities, and quality across all schools

Board of Education District 2

Candidates

Vote for 1

Michael Fryar

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/michaelfryarforboardofed2020>

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/fryarfor

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

Campaign Email: michaeljfryar@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (203) 214-0125

QUALIFICATIONS: I have spent 30+ years as a teacher, administrator, attorney and advocate for children and education. The Board of Education is a position that allows me to utilize my experience, education, and skills for a positive outcome, keeping children first.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: Public school choice, including magnet and themed schools as well as neighborhood schools, is one solution. When you provide multiple public school options to the community, you diversify the curriculum offerings and can better service the needs of all students.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: Community engagement is a key factor in creating successful schools. Ensuring that local resources and facilities are being efficiently utilized across the

county is also very important. Changing school boundaries is something that should only be done after a thoughtful, exhaustive review and, then, done with the utmost restraint.

FUNDING: First, full day pre-kindergarten services must be expanded. The impact is undeniable, and creates an immense benefit to the children and to the community. Second, we need to offer fuller, richer, and more dynamic career programs as genuine alternatives to college prep programming.

SCHOOL SAFETY: As a teacher myself, I faced multiple issues with guns on campus and illegal activity occurring in the student body. Offering interesting programs before and after school that are engaging and meaningful to the students did a great deal to address safety and self-esteem issues.

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: We need robust and holistic schools that showcase the value of vocational and non-college pathways. These schools need to be well-respected and viewed as equally valuable to schools that offer college prep opportunities. They cannot be simply an add-on or after thought to other curricular offerings.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: I will actively invite input from all stakeholders. I am accessible by phone, email and on social media. I will also make it a point to maintain regular in-person communication with school based groups. For example, meeting with SGA representatives and PTA groups will be a priority.

PRIORITIES: 1) Creating more magnet schools and themed schools to offer robust and diverse options to all students and their families. 2) Expanding the availability of comprehensive, educationally sound pre-K services. 3) Increasing vocational alternatives for all students, while trying to understand why fewer men are now choosing college

Rebecca K. Smondrowski

Nonpartisan

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

Campaign Facebook: [http://facebook.com/Rebecca Smondrowski](http://facebook.com/RebeccaSmondrowski)

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QUALIFICATIONS: I have passionately worked as a member of the BOE and a voice for MoCo residents, since elected in 2012, including as chair of the Special Populations Committee. My time on the BOE provides historical insight coupled with forward-thinking advocacy. The skills and strategies used as a legislative director and as a mom of public-school students have made me a dedicated public servant.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: Increased community engagement & expanded programming opportunities are critical. Performance Matters data indicate student & school achievement and we must use it to improve identified needs. We must continue to expand our educational resources and promote both academic & career opportunities for all students, regardless of zip code, in order for them to find their own successful pathways.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: All factors should be weighted equally. Diversity and geographic proximity are key factors in building strong communities and increased engagement and connections to schools. Local schools allow students to access available resources more readily, which is essential for MCPS families. Additionally, online learning has the potential to allow all students access to all course offerings.

FUNDING: The greatest influence in student achievement is early childhood learning & I fully support Kirwan's initiative to expand Pre-K access to all as early as possible. Teaching and support staff positions should be highly respected & appropriately-compensated careers and funded accordingly. As chair of Special Pops, funding for special education & transitional services is also a priority.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Students need to feel connected, engaged & cared for in our schools. Open communication & engagement with all students & families are key aspects to decreasing school safety issues. The Be Well 365 program, Restorative Justice, Peer2Peer conversations, social/emotional learning/supports & a culturally responsive & diverse curriculum (priorities of mine) are vital programs in creating safe schools.

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: Students need multiple pathways for successful futures. We must support alternative paths with easily accessible programming. Accordingly, I have advocated for the expansion of "opt-in" Alternative Programs & expansion of CTE offerings, with more flexibility & choices for students. One example is the cadet program, created through my work with first responders & MCPS, to grow our own workforce.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Feedback & seeing our school operations in action are the most important tools I have to represent & be a voice for the needs & interests of all stakeholders & make informed decisions to improve our system. Regular school visits, constituent email, responsive social media conversations, and being available to anyone, have been my key strategies for fairly representing the views of our community.

PRIORITIES: Hiring & retaining highly qualified & diverse staff & providing a school climate that incentivizes staff allowing them to create optimal learning environments & supporting our neediest schools. Use Performance Matters data to maximize student potential while optimizing resources. Expand & promote academic & career opportunities for all students, regardless of zip code, to find successful pathway

Board of Education District 4

Candidates

Vote for 1

Shebra Evans

Nonpartisan

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

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QUALIFICATIONS: As a current board member, I am proud of the work we are doing to address disparities in student outcomes by closing gaps in opportunity and achievement. We continue to make progress, but there is still work to do. I believe my experience on the board since 2016 coupled with my leadership as the board president will be an asset as we advocate for resources to ensure the success for all students.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: The board has been committed to equity and excellence. We believe this can only be achieved when all students have equitable access, opportunities and resources. We now have five two-way immersion schools, expanded access to AP & IB, free SAT/ACT or Licensure tests, expanded access to PreK, investment in smaller classes, dual enrollment w/ Montgomery College earning an AA degree and so on.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: Every factor is being considered in the analysis. It is a fiscally responsible approach to have the board review the entire district when considering new schools and additions. Our student enrollment has grown by more than 25,000 students since 2010 and we expect 11,000 more students over the next six years. This boundary analysis will give us a better overview and inform decisions in the future.

FUNDING: As president on the board, I have had the opportunity to testify before Chair Kirwan and members of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The board supported HB1300 and the funding it would provide to support improving access, opportunity, learning for all children and the new ways to improve the success of educators. We recommended adding funding for non-teacher personnel.

SCHOOL SAFETY: It is important that students/staff feel safe and secure in their learning and work environment. MCPS has procedures on emergency preparedness in the event of an attack of some sort or if someone has a weapon. The board supported the "Be Well 365" initiative because it promotes being healthy, being kind and being you. Students are equipped with tools to build academic and social resilience.

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: MCPS has developed new career readiness programs that combine strong academics with real-world professional experiences. This expansion will allow students to be ready for the workforce. Thomas Edison High School of Technology is unique among our 25 high schools offering a variety of programs with hands on learning. In

the fall, Seneca Valley High School will be another career readiness hub.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: As a board member, I am able to engage with external stakeholders through testimony at public hearings, during public comments at monthly business meetings, via emails, community meetings, etc. I am also informed as a parent of two MCPS students. The lived experiences of my daughters and their classmates help me understand the impact of my decisions. Each lens is important and informs the other.

PRIORITIES: Continue addressing the disparities in student outcomes by closing the gap in opportunity and achievement. Continued expansion of access to full-day Prekindergarten. Continued efforts to diversify our workforce with emphasis on recruitment, retention and increasing our own pipeline of talent.

Steve Solomon

Nonpartisan

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Campaign Phone: (301) 219-5812

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. I have been active on several boards, committees, and issues in Montgomery County. Working in radio my whole career has allowed me to work collaboratively with others on a daily basis and interact with the public.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: We need to maintain the best teachers and staff.. Did you know that nearly half the teachers in MCPS leave in their first three years? Training and keeping the best teachers leads to the best chance for students to succeed. Also, we need more access to special programs and vocational programs across more schools.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: I believe the most important factors in terms of boundary changes are: geographical location and fixing overcrowding in the schools that need it. I do not believe in putting a child in a school far away from their home. That means more travel time to and from school, being pulled from a school where your friends are, and not knowing what school you'll go to in the future.

FUNDING: I agree with many recommendations by the Kirwan Commission. I support expanded pre-K to 3- and 4-year-olds. I also support curriculum changes to better prepare students for real world jobs, as well as more resources for special education. My concerns are who is going to pay for this since it will cost \$4 billion. Will the bigger/wealthier counties like Montgomery County bear a bigger burden?

SCHOOL SAFETY: Gang activity is a real problem in our area. We need to start in middle school with outreach and prevention programs. Also more cooperation between MCPS and Montgomery County police is needed to keep gang activity from expanding.

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: I am a big advocate of expanding vocational programs across Montgomery County (If you look at my website www.VoteSteveSolomon.com you'll see it's my top issue listed!). We need to prepare students for jobs in the real world. What we have done at Edison high school with electrician, plumbing, and automotive programs is wonderful. We need more programs like this around the county.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: I believe that students and parents want their Board of Education members to give them real answers and solutions to their problems. I would encourage more notice/comment sessions from the public. I have attended PTA meetings to hear what parents are thinking and what they are really concerned about.

PRIORITIES: My top three priorities are 1) Expanding vocational and technical programs to more schools 2) Keeping our schools local 3) Revising our Snow Day policy - MCPS should decide in the morning if they're open, closed, or on a 2 hour delay and stick with it, they should not change their mind at 8 a.m., something that affects thousands of parents.

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

Montgomery County Question A

Amend Section 305 of the County Charter to prohibit the County Council from adopting a tax rate on real property that exceeds the tax rate on real property approved for the previous year, unless all current Councilmembers vote affirmatively for the increase. This amendment would replace the current property tax limit, which requires an affirmative vote of all current Councilmembers to levy a tax on real property that would produce total revenue that exceeds the total revenue produced by the tax on real property in the preceding fiscal year plus any increase in the Consumer Price Index. The current property tax limit exempts real proper tax revenue derived from

1. Newly constructed property
2. Newly rezoned property
3. Certain property assessed differently under State law
4. Property that has undergone a change in use
5. Property in a development tax district to provide funding for capital improvements

Current Law: The county property tax is levied on all property in the County and funds basic services such as schools, public safety, health and social services, and libraries. The real property tax rate is set each year by the County Council and is applied to the assessed value of the property. The County Charter provides that all current Councilmembers must approve any property tax that would produce total revenue greater than the total revenue raised by the property tax in the preceding fiscal year plus any increase in the Consumer Price Index. This does not include or apply to certain types of revenue such as revenue from new construction.

As a result of the revenue cap, the property tax rate per \$100 of assessed value has varied over time: in 2015 it was \$0.996; in 2016 it was \$0.9870; in 2017 it was \$1.0264; in 2018 it was \$1.0012; in 2019 it was \$0.9814; in 2020 it was \$0.9786; and in 2021 it was \$0.9785.

Proposed Change: The amendment would change the basis of the cap on property taxes from the previous year's property tax **revenues**, as current law requires, to the prior year's property tax **rate**. It would prohibit the Council from setting a property tax rate on real property that exceeds the rate of the prior year unless all current Councilmembers approve the increase. It would retain the existing requirement for a unanimous vote to increase property taxes beyond that cap, but the cap would be tied to the prior year's rate instead of the prior year's total revenues. Thus, property tax revenues could increase to reflect growth in the tax base and increased property values.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The council proposed this amendment. It is an alternative to the petitioned proposal that appears on the ballot as Question B.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Capping the property tax rate, as proposed, rather than capping total property tax revenues, as required by current law, is simpler and more in line with the common understanding of property tax as a rate.
- The amendment would allow the County to benefit from local economic growth in the tax base and increased property values. Under current law, a new property tax rate has to be set every year to ensure that total property tax revenues do not exceed the prior year's property tax revenues.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- If assessed property values rise, a fixed rate (as being proposed) would result in property owners paying more in property taxes.
- Higher property taxes could discourage some property owners from locating in Montgomery County and discourage others from staying.

A vote FOR Question A means the County Charter would be amended to change the basis of the cap on property taxes from the previous year's property tax

A vote AGAINST Question A means the County Charter would **not** be amended. The current Charter provision (capping total property tax revenues at the prior year's level absent a unanimous affirmative vote of all Councilmembers) would remain in place.

Montgomery County Question B

Amend Section 305 of the County Charter to prohibit the County Council from levying an ad valorem tax on real property that would produce total revenue (not including property tax revenue from certain enumerated sources) that exceeds the total revenue produced by the tax on real property in the preceding fiscal year plus a percentage of the previous year's real property tax revenues that equals any increase in the Consumer Price Index. Section 305 currently permits the County Council to exceed the limit on real property tax revenue only upon the affirmative vote of all current Councilmembers.

Current Law: The county property tax is levied on all property in the County and funds basic services such as schools, public safety, health and social services, and libraries. The real property tax rate is set each year by the County Council and is applied to the assessed value of the property. The County Charter provides that all current Councilmembers must approve any property tax that would produce total revenue greater than the total revenue raised by the property tax in the preceding fiscal year plus any increase in the Consumer Price Index. This does not include or apply to certain types of revenue such as revenue from new construction.

Proposed Change: The proposed change would eliminate the Council's authority to approve by unanimous vote a property tax that would produce total revenue (with certain exemptions) exceeding the prior fiscal year's property tax revenue plus any growth in the Consumer Price Index.

Origin of the Ballot Question: A citizen-initiated petition to place this question on the ballot was submitted to the County Council. The Montgomery County Board of Elections determined that the petition contained a sufficient number of valid signatures for the question to be placed on the ballot.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- It removes the Council's ability to increase property tax revenues beyond any increase in the Consumer Price Index, thus saving taxpayers money.
- Limiting revenues could encourage the Council to be more fiscally responsible in its spending decisions.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Limiting revenue growth to the increase in the Consumer Price Index is not fiscally sustainable. If revenues are not allowed to grow, the county may have to eliminate or reduce county services and limit its reserves, and it may negatively affect the County's bond rating.
- A revenue cap with no allowance for the Council to override it prevents the County from benefiting from increased property values and a growing tax base.

A vote FOR Question B means that the County Charter would be amended to eliminate the ability of the County Council to override the property tax revenue limit with an affirmative vote of all current Councilmembers.

A vote AGAINST Question B means that the County Charter would not be amended. The Charter would continue to allow the Council to approve by unanimous vote a property tax that produces revenues greater than the prior year plus inflation.

Montgomery County Question C

Amend the county Charter to

- Expand the County Council to consist of 11 Councilmembers, rather than the current 9
- Increase the number of Council districts from 5 to 7
- Elect 7 Councilmembers by district and 4 Councilmembers at large

Current Law: The County Charter currently provides that the Council is composed of nine members, four of whom are to be elected by the voters of the entire County (referred to as at-large members), and five of whom must each reside in a different Council district and be elected by the voters of that district.

Proposed Change: The amendment would add two additional Councilmembers so the County Council would consist of 11 members rather than the current 9. It would divide the County into seven Council districts rather than the current five and require that each district Councilmember reside in and be elected by the voters of that district. It would retain the existing four at-large Councilmembers.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This question was recommended by the Council's Government Operations Committee and approved by the full Council.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Due to population growth, the current five districts have more than twice the average number of residents as do districts in surrounding jurisdictions. The number of Montgomery County's council districts has not been adjusted in 30 years.
- Having more districts (7) with fewer residents in each district would increase the responsiveness of district Councilmembers to local issues and may lead to more diversity in district candidates and councilmembers.
- Voters would still be able to vote for, and be represented by, one district Councilmember and four at-large Councilmembers for a total of five as is currently the case.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Adding more Councilmembers and associated staff and office space would cost taxpayers more money.
- Adding two more councilmembers may make it more difficult to reach decisions on the Council.
- Some feel that retaining the four at-large councilmember seats results in less representation throughout the county as all of the at-large councilmembers both currently and in the recent past have been from the downcounty area.

A vote FOR Question C means the County Charter would be amended to increase the number of Councilmembers from nine to 11 members by adding two district seats.

A vote AGAINST Question C means the County Charter would not be amended, and the County Council would continue to consist of nine members, four of whom are at-large Councilmembers elected by voters in the entire County and five of whom are district Councilmembers elected by voters in that district.

Montgomery County Question D

Amend Sections 102 and 103 of the County Charter to

- Divide the County into 9, rather than the current 5, Council districts;
- Elect all Councilmembers by district, rather than the current 5 by district and 4 at large; and
- Reduce from 5 to 1 the number of Councilmembers each voter can vote for.

Current Law: The County Charter currently provides that the Council is composed of nine members, four of whom are to be elected by the voters of the entire County (referred to as at-large members), and five of whom must each reside in a different Council district and be elected by the voters of that district.

Proposed Change: The charter amendment would eliminate all the at-large member seats. It would divide the County into nine Council districts instead of the current five. It would require that each of the nine Councilmembers reside in a different Council district and be elected by the voters of that district.

Origin of the Ballot Question: A citizen-initiated petition to place this question on the ballot was submitted to the County Council. The Montgomery County Board of Elections determined that the petition contained a sufficient number of valid signatures for the question to be placed on the ballot.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Due to population growth, the current five districts have more than twice the average number of residents as do districts in surrounding jurisdictions. The number of Montgomery County's council districts has not been adjusted in 30 years.
- Having more districts (9) with fewer residents in each district would increase the responsiveness of district Councilmembers to local issues and may lead to more diversity in district candidates and councilmembers.
- Restructuring the council to nine districts with no at-large members would ensure that each district is equally represented on the council.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Eliminating the four at-large seats would reduce voter representation. Voters would vote for and be represented by only one councilmember instead of the current five (one district and four at-large councilmembers)
- An all-district Council could lead to an emphasis on local district issues at the expense of issues that affect the County overall.
- Restructuring the composition of the council may not be necessary to achieve better representation. Voters make their choice of representatives at the ballot box.

A vote FOR Question D means the County Charter would be amended to eliminate the provision for at-large Council seats, divide the County into nine Council districts, and require that each of the nine Council members reside in a different council district and be elected by the voters of that district.

A vote AGAINST Question D means the County Charter would not be amended. The County Council would continue to consist of nine members, four of whom are at-large Councilmembers and five of whom are district Councilmembers.

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

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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