



# Washington County *Voters' Guide* 2020 General Election

*Published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland*

## **About this *Voters' Guide***

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

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

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

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

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## Voting by Mail

### Applications for Ballots

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Returning Ballots

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

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

1. **All ballots must be returned or be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.**
2. **U.S. Mail:** Your ballot packet will include a postage paid envelope. Ballots must be postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.  
You may also use a private delivery service, but your ballot still must be sent no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.
3. **Ballot drop boxes:** Drop boxes will be available at the locations listed, 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.

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

- Washington County Board of Elections, 35 W Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740
- Washington County Election Center, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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

- Leonard P. Snyder Memorial Library, 12624 Broadfording Road, Clear Spring, MD 21722
  - Washington County Agricultural Education Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713
4. **Vote centers:** Ballots may be returned inside any vote center during Early Voting or on Election Day.
  5. **Board of Elections:** Ballots may be returned to the Board of Elections.

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

## **Voting in Person**

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

Early voting will be available at the designated vote center. 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.

- Washington County Election Center, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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

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

- Bester Elementary School, Gymnasium, 385 Mill Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740
- Boonsboro High School, Gymnasium, 10 Campus Avenue, Boonsboro, MD 21713
- Clear Spring High School, Gymnasium, 12630 Broadfording Road, Clear Spring, MD, 21722
- Girls Inc. Gym, 626 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740
- Hancock Middle/Senior High, Cafeteria, 289 W. Main Street, Hancock, MD 21750

- North Hagerstown High School, Gymnasium, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742
- Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1707 Rohrersville Road, Knoxville, MD 21758
- Smithsburg Middle School, Cafeteria, 68 N. Main Street, Smithsburg, MD 21783
- South Hagerstown High School, Gymnasium, 1101 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740
- Williamsport High School, Gymnasium, 5 S. Clifton Drive, Williamsport, MD 21795

## President and Vice President of the United States

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

**TERM:** Four years. Limit of two terms.

**BASE SALARY:** \$400,000 per year.

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

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

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

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

Additional information on the candidates may be available on [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org).

### Issues

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

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

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

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

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

## Candidates

Vote for 1 pair

### **Donald. J. Trump and Michael Pence**

**Republican**

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

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

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

**Campaign Instagram:** instagram.com/realdonaldtrump

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

### **Joe Biden and Kamala Harris**

**Democrat**

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

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

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

**Campaign Instagram:** <http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/>

**Campaign YouTube:** <http://www.youtube.com/joebiden>

**COVID-19 RECOVERY:** It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

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

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

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

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

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**Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Spike Cohen**  
**Libertarian**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** @Jorgensen4Potus

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

**Howie Gresham Hawkins and Angela Walker**  
**Green**

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

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

**Campaign Twitter:** @howiehawkins

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

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

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

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

## **Representative in Congress, District 6**

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

**TERM:** Two years

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

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

### **Issues**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Candidates

Vote for 1

### Neil C. Parrott

Republican Party

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

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

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

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

**Campaign Email:** [neil@neilparrott.org](mailto: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 worlds 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](https://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](https://twitter.com/gluck4congress)

**Campaign Email:** [VoteForGeorge@GeorgeGluck.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.gp.org/social_justice/#sjEnvJustice))

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

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

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

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

## Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 4

**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?

### Candidate

Vote for 1

**Andrew F. Wilkinson**

**Judicial**

No response received by deadline.

## Judge, Court of Special Appeals

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

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

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

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

### Issues

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

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

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

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

## Court of Special Appeals At Large

### Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

**E. Gregory Wells**

**Judicial**

No response received by deadline.

## Court of Special Appeals, Circuit 3

### Candidate

Vote YES or NO for continuance in office

**Kathryn Grill Graeff**

**Judicial**

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

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

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

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

## City of Hagerstown Mayor

**DUTIES:** The Mayor is the chief elected executive officer of the City and is charged with seeing that the Ordinances of the City, the policies and resolutions of the City Council and the provisions of the City Charter are faithfully executed. The Mayor annually reports on the condition of municipal affairs and makes recommendations for the public good and welfare of the City to the Council.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The Mayor must be at least 25 years old, have resided in the corporate limits of the City for at least one year and be a qualified voter in City elections. The Mayor must continue to reside in the City during her or his term.

**SALARY:** \$28,000 annually

**TERM:** 4 years

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected citywide.

### Issues

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

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for the of the City of Hagerstown?

**COOPERATION:** What actions will you personally take to foster more cooperation between the City and County government?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Much of the plan for revitalization of downtown has been focused on the recommendations of the study done by Urban Partners. What are your ideas for revitalization?

**SAFETY:** There is a perception that downtown is not safe. What is your downtown safety program going to look like?

## Candidates

Vote for 1

### Michael E. Barnes

Nonpartisan

**Campaign Website:** <http://Votebarnes2020.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Michael E Barnes for Mayor>

**Campaign Email:** Mike1967ap@aol.com

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 730-7885

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My position in the Washington County Free Clinic has prepared me for leadership in public office. Much of my life has been dedicated to public service through various local community service organizations. I have also built a successful Insurance Contracting business over the last 20 years right here in Hagerstown.

**PRIORITIES:** My priorities are safer streets, more economic growth and better civic engagement. Hagerstown has incredible potential and with brave and wise leadership, Hagerstown will meet that potential. There are so many issues to address and precious little time to do it all. I am confident, however, in the determination of the Hagerstown people's will to conquer the challenges on our way.

**COOPERATION:** Working with a unified council is necessary for a government to get things done in Hagerstown. I plan on working closely with the council to achieve the many great things we have planned for Hagerstown. Hagerstown has a long history of shared governance between the mayor and city council and I fully intend to work with the council, as our charter dictates.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The city needs to embrace calendar enhanced economic time frame beyond the typical holiday festivities. A Christmas Market in the city park adjacent to the Hager House is anatural location to inaugurate a traditional German Christmas market that puts the holiday spotlight on Hagerstown small business.

**SAFETY:** We need to end the drug and human trafficking of girls in Hagerstown and that starts with a fully staffed police department with at least 112 officers. We also will be propsoing a new Hagerstown VICE Department. More information on my website: [www.votebarnes2020.com](http://www.votebarnes2020.com)

### Emily N. Keller

Nonpartisan

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

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

**Campaign Instagram:** @emilykellerforhagerstown

**Campaign Email:** emily@emilykellerforhagerstown.com

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 991-6773

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have spent the last 4 years as a Councilwoman being present in the community, meeting with our residents & business owners to hear & address their concerns. I have a proven track record of getting things done- supporting our public safety officials, working tirelessly to combat the Opioid epidemic & working with the business community to encourage and enhance development & career opportunities.

**PRIORITIES:** 1: Ensuring the safety of our city by supporting initiatives to combat crime & improve our quality of life 2- Fight the Opioid Crisis with access to treatment, youth prevention education & supporting the statewide plan to reduce ODs/promote recovery 3- Support locally owned businesses & development that will provide quality jobs and career opportunity 4- Make Hagerstown safe, vibrant, & inclusive.

**COOPERATION:** I've held 2x2 meetings with 2 Councilmembers and 2 Commissioners for the first time in over 10 years. I will continue to hold these meetings. I have personal relationships with the commissioners and will use these relationships I've made to have open, transparent and tough conversations for the greater good of Hagerstown, as seen by my mission for a fair & equal tax set off for our Citizens.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** I will continue to focus on creating an environment in the City that is business friendly & provides world class service for developers. By providing incentives to encourage development, we are seeing many projects come to fruition. It is time to start our next big project such as an indoor sports complex for our youth or amphitheater. A combination of large and small projects enhance our city.

**SAFETY:** Aside from the need of a strong police presence that we are seeing with a staffed PD, I will focus on increasing lighting, filling vacant store fronts & increasing foot traffic downtown. "Natural surveillance" happens when a place is crowded. I am implementing an aggressive "shop local" type campaign, focusing on all the reasons to come downtown. More people+More Lights+More Police= Safe Community.

## City of Hagerstown Council

**DUTIES:** Legislative powers of the City are vested in a five-member Council. The Council has the power to pass ordinances to assure the good government of the city. Meetings are held on Tuesdays. The first, second and third Tuesday are typically Work Sessions, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The Regular Session is held on the fourth Tuesday, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings, except Executive Sessions, are open to the public.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Members of the City Council must be at least 21 years old, have resided in the corporate limits of the City for at least one year and be a qualified voter in City elections. Council members must continue to reside in the City during their term.

**SALARY:** \$8,000 annually

**TERM:** 4 years

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected at-large.

### Issues

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

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for the of the City of Hagerstown?

**COOPERATION:** What actions will you personally take to foster more cooperation between the City and County government?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Much of the plan for revitalization of downtown has been focused on the recommendations of the study done by Urban Partners. What are your ideas for revitalization?

**SAFETY:** There is a perception that downtown is not safe. What is your downtown safety program going to look like?

### Candidates

Vote for 5

**Kristin B. Aleshire**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Email:** kidkris09@hotmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 992-1861

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I believe that my personal and professional tenure in local government provides me with both the historical and daily experience to be readily prepared for all areas of City government. Having a working knowledge of the responsibilities of Council and applying my skillset as a manager within municipal government is key to achieving citizen expectation for our immediate and long term goals.

**PRIORITIES:** Every issue which comes before Council is a priority and thus the priority of Council is to find tangible resolution to each issue which arises. Being informed and prepared and able to work positively with all parties is paramount to that task. The City has

its challenges and allowing one objective to fail creates a domino of negative impact on all other objectives set by each administration.

**COOPERATION:** There is an aged misconception that the City and County do not cooperate, which appears only tied to this single municipality. Having now served as both Council member and Commissioner, I would only note, we achieve the greatest success together by maintaining political focus on the big picture while our collective staffs work hand in hand applying detail to the paint.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** This answer is well beyond the space provided to respond. That said, we need to continue with the A&E theme, the first 3rd grant program, and addressing blighted properties. As Urban Partners noted, measures should be affordable and practical. Most importantly the City needs greater buy in from its public and private partners that at times appear more invested in the City than vested in the City.

**SAFETY:** I have said for some time, downtown appears emptier than it does unsafe. Downtown requires public-private investment to breathe new life into it and restore an atmosphere of positive daily activity. I believe the safety issues are more prevalent in pockets of our neighborhoods which struggle with a broad range of socio-economic issues. These are the areas which require our police attention.

## **Bob Bruchey**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Email:** rbruchey@msn.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** MY extensive working knowledge of all aspects of City Government, all departments. My prior years as Mayor in some of the worst economic times have made me a budget hawk, protecting the people's money. I bring common sense and fiscal responsibility to the table. I have extensive connections and relationships in Annapolis and with our local government and business community.

**PRIORITIES:** Safety and Economic Growth. Continue to enhance public safety to ensure recruitment and retainment of qualified public safety personnel is achieved. Continue the economic growth we have experienced in the past 3 years. We've had great success in promoting and assisting small business with nearly \$3MM in grants that have made it possible to grow small business all over Hagerstown.

**COOPERATION:** I have a great personal working relationship with our County Commissioners. The facts trump the fake perception; Partnering on infrastructure improvements for economic development and job creation, the bridge at Professional Court, the reconstruction of Wesel Blvd. for North Point that brings \$139MM in investment and 1500 jobs. Partners on DBHM, Md. Theater, BISFA, USMH the list goes on.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The UPP was only a rehash of older plans over the past 20 years. I believe that we continue to invest in our small businesses as noted above. Economic Catalyst is needed to put 100's of 1,000's of feet on the street. We have come a long way, but we won't change the economic makeup of the core until we change the socioeconomic makeup. People living and playing in the core with expendable income.

**SAFETY:** We can no longer accept panhandling, drugged and drunk passed out people hanging and laying on our downtown sidewalks, benches, etc. We must focus on quality of life, common sense policing that makes everyone feel safe. Perception or reality, we need to focus on cleanliness and safety. More good feet on the street equals less negative perception. That's why an economic catalyst is paramount.

## **Tiara Burnett**

### **Nonpartisan**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://TiaraBurnettforCityCouncil>

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a lifelong member of the community, I value the opportunity to Serve. I am active in the community, where I have served on the board for the Robert W.

Johnson Community Center and currently act as Secretary for the local nonprofit Beyond the Arc Foundation, where I schedule the entertainment and vendor service for our Ruthann V. Monroe Summer Basketball League.

**PRIORITIES:** I would like to implement a mentorship program for our youth, which will lessen their vulnerability to joining a gang and becoming involved in criminal activity. I will hold Real Estate developers, owners, and Property Managers accountable to lessen the blight of abandoned buildings in our community.

**COOPERATION:** In my first 100 days, I will have met with each County Commissioner to foster and enhance a collaborative approach to bridge the two bodies of public service. This will allow a working partnership to open the lines of communication and relationship.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** My revitalization ideas include working with entrepreneurs, businesses, and the arts to put new life into the core of the city. By encouraging growth and opportunity, we want people to stay in the downtown area after 5 o'clock. We want the downtown area to be an inviting space.

**SAFETY:** I believe a proactive approach is better than reactive. Inclusion and community are key factors for developing a safety program. There needs to be a police department that represents diversity and willingness to engage in discussions of community partnership.

## **Brooke Grossman**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Grossman-for-Hagerstown>

**Campaign Email:** [bwoodslonergan@yahoo.com](mailto:bwoodslonergan@yahoo.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 313-5797

**QUALIFICATIONS:** First and foremost I am a resident of Hagerstown, not just within City Limits but of the City core. I have lived in my home for the last 6 years and have witnessed the positive progress that has been made in the community. I feel that this gives me a unique perspective on what additional efforts need to be made to propel Hagerstown forward.

**PRIORITIES:** 1) Crafting a community and economic development plan that is inclusive of all city residents.. 2) Developing career and education pathways for Hagerstown residents that provide them with the skills necessary to earn a living wage. Creating a pathway to economic mobility for city residents.

**COOPERATION:** I personally will be present at County Commissioners meetings and invite them to participate in City Council meetings and planning events to encourage a spirit of collaboration between the two agencies.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Efforts to revitalize Hagerstown must include all of it's residents including low/moderate income households, we need to invite residents to share their ideas/goals for economic development. What types of businesses would they like to see in the community, what events/opportunities would be interesting to them.

**SAFETY:** First we need to educate to community about safety issues in the downtown area, this can be accomplished through community conversations. Additionally, I would invite concerned citizens to become active in groups that are working to address community concerns, like the Homeless Coalition. Finally, I would work to create a street team increasing foot traffic in the City Center.

## **Austin Heffernan**

### **Nonpartisan**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/AustinHeffernan.HGR/>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/aheffernan\\_hgr](https://twitter.com/aheffernan_hgr)

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

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 310-9617

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council in January 2018, so I've had two years of direct experience fulfilling the duties of the office. My continued

goal is to contribute my education and business experience to the city to improve our ability to attract businesses and investors that will provide good jobs, and the tax revenues needed to make lasting change and improvements.

**PRIORITIES:** I have two immediate priorities: PUBLIC SAFETY - We need to reduce crime, illegal firearm activity and illegal drug activity. Citizens are fed up with the petty crimes, thefts, vandalized cars, break-ins, and hearing gunshots at all hours. PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT - We need investment in new businesses, new jobs, and new career opportunities with educational pathways to support career development.

**COOPERATION:** I have a good working relationship with each of the County Commissioners and key County employees, and will continue to identify opportunities to work with County government on projects of mutual benefit, but I will also focus on making sure City taxpayers, who also pay County Tax, are not penalized by an inadequate tax differential when contributing to the costs of shared services with the County

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** We need to continue work to make our City open, welcome and helpful to developers and businesses that want to renovate and establish a business presence here. We have a reputation of not being an easy, or helpful place to do business. It's improving, but we have a ways to go to eliminate the reputation. We need to focus on being more helpful in assisting downtown investors to be successful.

**SAFETY:** There are physical things that must be improved immediately, such as the lighting on our streets. Police salaries need to be made competitive to increase the size of the force; we need more foot patrols and need to restore bike patrols to increase police presence in the public eye. We also must revise outdated ordinances and penalties regarding illegal drug and firearm possession and trafficking.

### **Tekesha A. Martinez**

#### **Nonpartisan**

No response received by deadline.

### **Shelley McIntire**

#### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://SHELLEY-MCINTIRE.COM>

**Campaign Email:** MCINTIREFORHAGERSTOWN@GMAIL.COM

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 310-5553

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have over 2 years of experience as a City councilwoman. This time of service has made me familiar with the issues in our City & I understand, and know how to manage, the obstacles that can get in our way. As a small business owner, I am a strong strategic planner & have experience managing budgets, thinking creatively & I know the importance of working together to achieve maximum success.

**PRIORITIES:** My priority remains our community's social issues & finding realistic solutions to address them. I will continue to collaborate with multiple agencies & community-based organizations to improve neighborhood safety, reduce crime & provide more opportunities for our youth. A community that is socially healthy attracts new business & provides a fertile environment for our existing businesses to grow.

**COOPERATION:** I will encourage the ongoing "Two-by-Two" conversations that include two County Commissioners and two City Councilmembers where we can discuss the issues that our City and County face and look for solutions together. I will look for ways to pool our resources so that we may provide better quality, more effective services.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** We should continue to incentivize businesses to open & stay downtown. I will use best-practice approaches - successful in similar cities facing similar issues - to make our city an attractive place to locate. I will work to remove barriers when conducting business within the city & offer evidence-based enforcement & policy recommendations that would lessen crime & improve the image of downtown.

**SAFETY:** Law enforcement alone cannot solve our safety concerns. I will support the implementation of proven strategies to identify key areas of violence in Hagerstown and

encourage a community-wide effort that will involve, not only suppression of violence, but also measures of prevention and intervention.

## **Penny May Nigh**

### **Nonpartisan**

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

**Campaign Email:** pennynigh2020@gmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 790-3839

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I feel my record holding a seat on the City Council from the past speaks for itself (three terms previously). I willingly listen to the needs of our citizens and work to address issues as they arise to the best of my ability.

**PRIORITIES:** Priorities for me would be continuing to clean up our proud city; as well as address the climbing crime rate occurring on our streets.

**COOPERATION:** I have always tried to keep an open line of communication between our City officials and Washington County officials. I have always kept Hagerstown's interests at heart. We need to remember that Hagerstown does pay Washington County and certainly deserves a voice.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** First we need to stop looking to consultants that continually offer the same ideas for our city. Hagerstown has so much potential and much to offer already. We should "look outside the box" ..... to new developers for ideas using the buildings and infrastructure already in place.

**SAFETY:** We have always had programs in place for our downtown; programs such as the like the Downtown Squad. We must bring more police officers to our city and make every attempt to keep them employed here. I would continue to work with State and County Police, asking them for cooperation and assistance with vehicular traffic and drug confiscations.

## **Peter E. Perini, Sr.**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.peterperini.org>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://peterperiniforcouncil/>

**Campaign Email:** peter@peterperini.org

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My professional background includes my previous position as President & CEO of a regional company with over 1,000 employees. I know how to create jobs. I had worked in the construction industry for many years managing multi-million dollar projects. I know economic development. I have worked with minority business enterprise (MBE) firms. I know how to diversify.

**PRIORITIES:** My top priority is to bring jobs into the City. New jobs in the City will support stores, restaurants and other businesses and will help people find jobs with better incomes. We must continue the fight against the opioid crisis by supporting Emily Keller's 'Washington Goes Purple'. Another priority is to improve housing opportunities in the City by working with landlords and property owners.

**COOPERATION:** I agree that the County should cooperate more fully with the City of Hagerstown. I will use data to show the disparity disadvantage to City taxpayers and to support county initiatives to improve downtown. The County needs to find a sustainable public safety plan for fire and rescue services that currently draw heavily on the City-funded fire department for services outside of the City.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** My top priority is to bring employers into the City. We need to find a better parking plan that supports employees of businesses in the City. We need to take action to remove blight from the entire City. One bad property in a neighborhood negatively impacts the value of all of the surrounding properties and it creates a breeding ground for crime.

**SAFETY:** Downtown IS safe. We have an excellent police department lead by a strong, yet caring Chief of Police. The perception of "not safe" is not from a high amount of crime but

rather from gatherings of idle people with nothing to do. So let's find what idle people can do for the betterment of our City. I support the Chief of Police and his good ideas to change the perception of our downtown.

**Brenda J. Thiam**

**Nonpartisan**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Brenda J. Thiam for Hagerstown City Council>

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

**Campaign Instagram:** Instagram: Dr Thiam

**Campaign Email:** [info@doctorbrenda4citycouncil.com](mailto:info@doctorbrenda4citycouncil.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 310-9543

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Doctor of Special Education, I've had decades of experience using critical thinking, developing a keen attention to detail, and implementing professionally developed listening skills. As a member of the Hagerstown City Council, I will bring a leadership style that is focused on data and results driven action.

**PRIORITIES:** A Prosperous Hagerstown For Our Children's Future A Professional Approach To Public Safety A Proactive Approach To The Opioid Crisis A Productive Approach To Our Economic Development

**COOPERATION:** Hagerstown is the largest municipality in Washington County. As such, it's essential that Hagerstown assist the County Government in showcasing the cooperative spirit between Hagerstown and the Washington County Government. I will work diligently to highlight initiatives that enhance the standard of living offered to the residents of Hagerstown and other municipalities.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Hagerstown leadership passed a comprehensive plan for the city in 2018. The next group of elected city leadership must engage in updated conversations with local businesses, local nonprofits, and local residential stakeholders to discuss implementing the action items of the plan. It is essential to ensure that everyone is on the same page in carrying out the vision of Hagerstown.

**SAFETY:** Downtown needs to be part of an invigorated community policing effort. We need to create an opportunity for our citizens to engage with law enforcement in a positive way. A Downtown Advisory Council (DAC) would bring all downtown stakeholders together. This would allow business owners, residents and law enforcement to identify and recommend positive changes to enhance the image of downtown.

## **Washington County Board of Education**

The Washington County Board of Education maintains a reasonably uniform system of public schools. Working with the Superintendent, the Board determines educational policies of the school system and establishes rules for the education system. The Board is composed of seven members elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Board members earn a salary of \$12,000 and the Board Chair earns a salary of \$12,500. Regular 7 p.m. meetings of the Board are held twice each month. Work sessions are held afternoons at the central office as needed. Several times during the school year, meetings are held in the afternoon at schools throughout the county. All meetings, except executive sessions, are announced in advance and open to the public. Four seats will be open in 2020.

**Website:** <http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us>

### **Issues**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Candidates

Vote for 4

### Pieter Bickford

#### Nonpartisan

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

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

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 331-4119

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've been a member of the Board of Education for the past four years, which makes me uniquely qualified for the job. I'm also a parent of a graduate and the husband of an educator. As a journalist, I have covered education and politics throughout my professional career. As chair of the WCPS Finance Committee, I know how to manage a multi-million-dollar budget.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** I would rank class size as the most important, followed by teacher retention, and school buildings. But all require funding. For the past 4 years despite making well thought out and coordinated asks, the county commissioners continue to vote to give us the minimum required by state law. The needs of our students are only growing. They must be a priority!

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Being reliant on testing runs the risk of "teaching to the test" but can also encourage uniformity in our curriculum while being a useful tool for spotlighting areas of need. I have learned that an amazing staff and administration KNOWS which schools need help. Testing for national standards frankly wastes money and resources that could be better spent on meeting our local needs.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** We have expanded vocational programs during my first term, and we have further to go. I would like to see a prep program for students who are considering careers in the military, as well as expanding opportunities for students who want to devote their lives to public service.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Treat the immediate problem through the use of compassionate but firm staff who enforce strict anti-bullying and discipline policies, but also prevent the problem in the first place by teaching students how to work through their conflicts with words rather than weapons.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** We are actively involved in several organizations, including On Track. We have apprenticeships with Bowman Trucking, Hub Labels, etc. I'm a firm believer that real world experience can be one of the best classrooms.

**PRIORITIES:** Preserving our expanded pre-k, improving our virtual options, promoting smaller class sizes, recruiting experienced diverse teachers, improving relations with our collective bargaining associations, shoring up salaries for veteran teachers, and collaborating with social services and non-profits to better support struggling families.

### William "Bill" Donahue

#### Nonpartisan

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.flagshiptrivia.com/billforboe/index.asp>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://billdonahueforboe>

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

**Campaign Email:** billdonahue4boe@gmail.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have 31 years of teaching experience. I have taught in middle and high schools. I was also a science resource teacher, a technology integration specialist, a department chairperson, and an acting assistant principal. During these various opportunities, I have learned multiple aspects of education.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Budget is a huge responsibility of a school system. A properly funded and distributed budget can benefit student's education. Studies show that high teacher turn over can actually harm student achievement. Class size also affects student achievement. Both need to be high priorities. Finally, as our school building are aging and need to be maintained and replaced as necessary.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** All schools must comply with state and national standards to ensure a quality education. This needs to be in tandem with hiring and retaining the highest quality teachers to teach those standards. All students need to be able to master the standards. However, that should not be the end point of instruction, it should be the beginning.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** College and Career Readiness is important for students. There are many alternatives to college. I have taught at one of those such alternative programs, Washington County Technical High School. That school provides some students with great opportunities that might not include college. There should be more opportunities for students.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Schools need to be safe spaces for students to learn. Student's basic needs must be met before they can even learn. Policies need to be in place and supported from the top down so that classrooms are a safe space for learning.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Educational partnerships are essential. The ultimate goal should be a community all working together for students to provide the best education for the students of Washington County. By working with businesses and community organizations students will get the best education possible.

**PRIORITIES:** My highest priority is to work with all educational personnel and the county commissioners to provide the best education possible for the students of Washington County Public Schools. We need to set policies and work with community members and businesses so that all schools in WCPS provide students with an education that will make them competitive with the global community.

## **Benjamin Forrest**

### **Nonpartisan**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I come from a long line of teachers here in Washington County. My mother, my grandmother, and my grandfather all were teachers, administrators, and supervisors here in Washington County, and I have been a substitute teacher for over three years, allowing me to work in schools and with students all across WCPS. I also have significant experience working in education policy across Maryland.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** The highest priority of the Board of Education should be supporting teachers and Educational Support Personnel in providing students with the best education possible. Therefore increasing teacher and ESP pay to ensure we are recruiting and maintaining the highest class staff possible is among my highest priorities. We also have to keep class sizes down to give all students opportunities to succeed

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** It's important that WCPS should be meeting and exceeding both state and national standards. That being said, we should not be inundating our kids with test after test. We should trust our teachers in allowing them to teach their students the way they will best learn. Our teachers are trained to teach, and we should let them do so.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** College is not for every student. We should ensure all of our vocational, technical, skills, and certificate programs are serving as diverse a student population as WCPS has. We should work with community businesses and stakeholders to ensure that these programs, which prepare students with essential skills to enter the workforce, meet strategic and standing needs in our community.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Ensuring the safety of our schools and our students is the most important job that the school system has. We should ensure that, to every extent possible, schools have an immediate and available School Resource Officer. We should also work with our local and state law enforcement partners to ensure we are employing policing and student safety best practices to educate our school safety actions.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** I would be active and involved in recruiting and retaining business and community engagement and support. I would also encourage an increased level of engagement with local businesses and community organizations to increase the opportunities for students to be involved in these jobs, as well as the benefit that it supplements the workforce needs of these same businesses.

**PRIORITIES:** I will make it a priority to build a stronger working relationship between the elected Board, the teachers, Educational Support Personnel, administrators, and community and parental stakeholders. I am committed to making sure everyone is able to be engaged, included, and valued as a stakeholder in our educational system and I am committed to being as accessible as possible to ensure this goal.

## **Ladetra Robinson**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Ladetra Robinson for Washington County Board of Education>

**Campaign Email:** [lrobinson4WCBOE@gmail.com](mailto:lrobinson4WCBOE@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (240) 452-8243

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am the owner of Blossom School of Etiquette & mentoring program, working with students from WCPS helping them become college and/or career ready. I have 3 children graduates of WCPS that are now in college. I have been on several boards in the past working with students, teachers and the community. I feel this makes me qualified to do the same for students in our entire county.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** I would rank teacher skills and retention as number 1 in our budget. The facilities and transportation are very important. We have to include safety of our children and school leadership and support staff as well. The main goal is what best serves our students to become successful.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** The standard testing should be used to measure our student's achievements. They should be fair and objective measure of student's ability. WCPS teachers should be accountable in teaching and preparing so that our students are well prepared for these tests.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I will support all programs that support our students for employment without going to higher learning. Washington County Technical School is one in our school system that does just that for our students. Internships from some of our businesses would also be a great support.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** School safety is a major issue in our schools. I believe cameras and law enforcement should be present in the schools. Teachers and staff should have additional training on bullying, substance abuse, gangs, other societal issues... Our students should be given awareness training.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** . I will promote all partnerships with WCPS from after school programs, student and community organizations as well businesses. This is very important for all our community to be a part of our student education.

**PRIORITIES:** My priority for this office is to improve college and career readiness in all students.

## **Stan Stouffer**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Stan Stouffer for School Board>

**Campaign Email:** [sstouffer2@hotmail.com](mailto:sstouffer2@hotmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 991-5388

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My biggest experience is my current three years as vice-president of the WCBOE. Before that I served as a WCPS social studies educator for 42 years, coach for 27 years, and athletic director for 5 years. As a WCTA board of directors member and representative over 30 years, I had experience in teacher negotiations and grievance procedures. I also helped author the MD Government HSA.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Funding is the top educational priority. Absent proper funding it is difficult to recruit and retain effective teachers, lower class size (requires more teachers), build and maintain buildings, offer relevant and diverse curriculum and programs for all students, provide services for special education, student mental health problems, and ELL and afford dynamic 21st century technology for education.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** National and state standards constantly change. Standardized testing programs constantly change. MD is discontinuing PARCC testing in favor of a program called MCAP. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND has given way to EVERY STUDENT SUCCEED ACT. COMMON CORE has proved controversial. Students should be exposed to a curricula that promotes higher order thinking skills and multiple 21st century literacies.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I strongly support the continuation and expansion of 21st century skill courses and traditional trade and career courses at our technical high school as well as continuing career -related courses at our other high schools. MD and particularly our county have placed a high importance on career and technology education. I also believe even non-college students need training beyond high school.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I have requested an update about gangs and their influence in WCPS so we can determine what initiatives should be considered to prevent gang violence in WCPS. Bullying education MUST start at home. WCPS should hold workshops to educate parents about their importance in preventing bullying and strongly enforce its bullying policy. Parents must be enlisted to assist in preventing substance abuse.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** There are many ways to do this: asking for volunteers and donating resources, internships with local businesses and groups, promoting dual enrollment courses, promoting early college and middle college programs, seeking places for students to earn student service learning hours, and developing public/private partnerships for promoting literacy and improving facilities.

**PRIORITIES:** To promote the highest levels of literacy possible for our students so they can and will be able to compete in a 21st century global economy. To strive for equality and equity in all educational activities for all students. To continue working with my fellow board members and Superintendent Michael to achieve the continuing goals we began to accomplish for our students and community.

## **Melissa Williams**

### **Nonpartisan**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Melissa Williams, candidate for Washington County Board of Education 2020>

**Campaign Email:** melissathereader@verizon.net

**Campaign Phone:** (301) 824-5122

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am completing my second term as a BOE member and have served as president since 2016. Prior to BOE service I was a WCPS educator for 35 years. I have participated in board member training and conferences offered by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE). I currently serve on several MABE standing committees, the Ad Hoc Equity Committee, and serve on the MABE Board of Directors.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** My priorities are to provide resources and services to support the needs of each WCPS student, to fairly compensate our teachers, administrators, and educational support personnel, and to maintain and create educationally appropriate, safe, and secure facilities.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Standards are the basis of curriculum, and curriculum drives instruction. Testing is one tool that helps us measure our progress and success, and it aids

us in modifying instruction and decision making.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I will continue to support a strong CTE (career technology education) program, our technical high school, and internships and apprenticeships in the trades. I support having multiple pathways to success in order to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** As we renovate schools and add resource officers to address safety threats from outside our buildings we must also address safety concerns arising within our buildings. Bullying and behavioral issues make additional guidance counselors, behavior specialists, and social workers essential. School safety concerns are addressed through policymaking, budgeting, and goal setting with the superintendent

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Currently, the BOE embraces opportunities to support partnerships within the limits of its budget. The BOE partners with foundations, school organizations, and community groups on many projects and programs to enhance facilities and student programs. I will continue to encourage and support public-private partnerships.

**PRIORITIES:** I am committed to providing each student in WCPS with equitable access to the educational rigor, resources, and support needed to maximize his/her academic achievement and social/emotional well-being, to providing safe and secure school environments that are conducive to learning, and to working collaboratively with county and state leaders to obtain the funding these priorities require.

## **April A. Zentmeyer**

### **Nonpartisan**

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

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

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I attended WCPS and earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy from UMD, College Park. My work experience includes communications, PR, nursing, and President/CEO of two companies, as well as, teacher/administrator for three decades—including leadership positions at North High, Williamsport, and Boonsboro. I developed vision and mission statements along with strategies to achieve goals.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Creating a safe school environment where curiosity and the love of learning are fostered by quality teachers and an engaged student body is the priority. When we design schools, bigger is not always better. Smaller classes, building community, promoting student achievement, and teacher retention can achieve this goal.

**STANDARDS AND TESTING:** Although testing is valuable, we need to be careful how it is used to make critical decisions affecting schools, teachers, and students. Testing assures that students are achieving state standards, provides direction for teaching, indicates where attention is needed, and rewards a job well done. Feedback from testing is valuable. Tests are tools--great teachers teach beyond the context of tests.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** Technical High School offers a quality education that serves a high demand area in our community. We should expand technical high school opportunities. Partnerships that provide internships, shadowing programs, and vocational opportunities are needed for students and the business community.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** Maintaining discipline and standards is necessary for a safe school environment conducive to learning. However, troubled kids, a bully, gang member, or substance abuser, is still a kid with developmental and educational needs. Antietam Academy's Trauma Responsive Approach is a success. Adopting Restorative Practices--addressing the child's needs first--can benefit troubled kids if well implemented.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Washington County is an incredibly generous community boasting successful alumni who give time, talent, and financial support to our schools. Capitalizing on this network, and promoting partnerships can prepare students for the world of work. We can expand community outreach to enhance and grow internships, shadowing programs, and vocational opportunities.

**PRIORITIES:** My passion is teaching kids to love learning and supporting the people who make this happen. I will advocate for all students: special education, reluctant and at-risk learners, advanced learners and the majority of students who do not fit into these groups who also need an advocate. We need to develop policies, provide resources, and look for ways to empower and enhance the role of teacher.

## State Ballot Questions

### Maryland State Question 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Arguments in Favor:**

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

- This Constitutional Amendment would not change the current requirement that the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget.

**Arguments Against:**

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

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

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

## **Maryland State Question 2**

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

#### **Expansion of Commercial Gaming-Sports and Event Wagering**

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

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

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

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

**Proposed Change:** If the referendum is approved, the General Assembly would then need to pass legislation that authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue licenses for sports and event wagering in the State. The legislation must include the criteria for eligible applications for a licensee and specify the permissible forms, means of conducting, and locations where sports wagering would take place. The bill that sent this question to the voters also requires a study by the General Assembly to evaluate whether there is reason to assist minorities and women in the sports and event wagering industry and market. This study is to be completed by October 1, 2020, so any recommendations that result can be considered when the General Assembly establishes criteria for licenses (assuming the referendum passes.)

### **Arguments in Favor:**

Allowing sports betting in Maryland would enable the state to compete with the fourteen states that are already raising revenue this way.

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

### **Arguments Against:**

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

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

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

## **Matching Gift Challenge**

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

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

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

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

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

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