

Run for Office in Kent County

2017 – 2018

Published by the
**League of Women
Voters
Of Kent County**





About this Guide

The League of Women Voters has a long tradition of promoting citizen participation in our democracy. The information contained in this guide includes the majority of offices for which legal residents of Kent County may run, the duties of the offices, how the elections are conducted, the office term, and the base salary for the position. Similar information regarding the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Circuit Court Judge may be acquired from the Maryland State Board of Elections. The League encourages all who are qualified to consider running for office.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan and does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

PRIMARY FILING DEADLINE FOR ALL OFFICES (excepting municipalities) is Feb 27, 2018, at 9 p.m. Deadline for non-principal political party candidates and unaffiliated candidates is July 1, 2018.

PRIMARY ELECTION. Early Voting: June 14 - 21, 2018; Election Day: June 26, 2018.

GENERAL ELECTION. Early Voting: Oct. 25 – Nov. 1, 2018; Election Day: Nov. 6, 2018

U.S. Senator

Duties: U.S. Senators make laws along with the House of Representatives, ratify treaties, and conduct investigations on issues of national importance. The Senate confirms Presidential appointments.

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2018, Maryland voters will elect one Senator. One-third of the 100 members of the Senate are elected every two years. Senators must be 30 years old, have been citizens of the United States at least 9 years, and be residents of Maryland. All registered voters in Maryland may vote for one candidate running for this office.

Filing Fee: \$290

Term: 6 years; no term limits

Salary: \$174,000

U.S. Representative MD District 1

Duties: Representatives make laws along with the members of the Senate and may conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Representatives determine whether a public official should be tried, if accused of a crime.

How Elected/Qualifications: District 1 is comprised of all counties on the Eastern Shore and parts of Harford and Baltimore Counties. Voters elect one U.S. Congressperson as the representative for an area with more than 300,000 residents. Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been citizens of the United States for at least 7 years, and be residents of U.S. District 1 in Maryland.

Filing Fee: \$100

Term: 2 years; no term limits

Salary: \$174,000

Maryland State Senator District 36

Duties: State Senators share responsibility with Delegates for enactment of the state's laws as provided for in the Constitution of the State of Maryland.

How Elected/Qualifications: District 36 includes all of Kent and Queen Anne's counties and parts of Cecil and Caroline counties. One Senator is elected by all qualified voters in the areas cited. State Senators must be 25 years old, a resident of Maryland for 1 year, and a resident of District 36 for 6 months.

Filing Fee: \$50

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$45,207

Maryland State House Delegate District 36

Duties: Delegates share the responsibilities with State Senators for enactment of the State's laws as provided for in the Constitution of the State of Maryland.

How Elected/Qualifications: District 36 includes all of Kent and Queen Anne's counties and parts of Cecil and Caroline counties. Qualified voters in District 36 cast votes for 3 candidates. The 3 candidates who receive the largest number of votes are elected EXCEPT that each person elected must live in a different county. Delegates must be 21 years of age, be a resident of Maryland for 1 year, and be a resident of District 36 for 6 months.

Filing Fee: \$50

Term: 4 years; no term limits.

Salary: \$45,207 annual base

Kent County State's Attorney

Duties: Serves as chief prosecutor of anyone charged with committing a crime in Kent County. The State's Attorney's office also investigates charges of police and public official misconduct and misuse of funds.

How Elected/Qualifications: All qualified voters in Kent County vote for one State's Attorney. The State's Attorney must be a member of the Maryland bar, a resident of Kent County for 2 years, and a registered voter.

Filing Fee: \$25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$109,200

Kent County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Duties: The Clerk of the Circuit Court oversees the office that performs administrative duties for the Circuit Court. Duties include maintenance of court records, recording of deeds, collecting taxes and fees based on property transactions, and issuing licenses for fishing, hunting, sales of liquor, and marriage. The Clerk also performs civil wedding ceremonies and processes passport applications.

How Elected/Qualifications: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for one Clerk of Court. The Clerk must be a registered voter.

Filing Fee: \$25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$109,000

Register of Wills

Duties: Assists and advises the general public with administrative processes and preparation of forms concerning estates of deceased persons. The Register collects Maryland inheritance tax on estates and probate fees, maintains all records of wills and estates of deceased persons, acts as clerk to the Orphans' Court, safeguards wills of living persons, and guards the property of minors.

How Elected/Qualifications: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for one Registrar of Wills. The Register must be a registered voter.

Filing Fee: \$25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$100,000

Judge of Orphans' Court

Duties: The Maryland Orphans' Court is the probate court. It also has jurisdiction over guardianship of minors. The Orphans' Court supervises the handling of estates of people who have died – with or without a will – while owning property in their sole name.

How Elected/Qualifications: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for 3 Judges of Orphans' Court in 2018. Judges must be residents of Kent County for 1 year and be registered voters.

Filing Fee: \$25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$4,000

Kent County Sheriff

Duties: The sheriff is responsible for maintaining public order according to law in Kent County, carries out court orders, delivers summons, deals with protective orders and other injunctions, and executes bench warrants.

How Elected/Qualifications: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for the Sheriff. Candidates must be 25 years old, be a resident of Maryland for 5 years, live in Kent County, and be a registered voter.

Filing Fee: \$25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$85,000

Kent County Commissioner

Duties: There are 3 Commissioners in Kent County. They are responsible for county-specific legislation and the direction of all public operations for the county.

How Elected/Qualifications: Qualified voters in Kent County may vote for 3 candidates. Candidates must be registered voters in Kent County.

Filing Fee: \$25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$20,000

Kent County Board of Education

Duties: The 5 members of the board establish and oversee the educational policies for the public school system of the county, decide when and where schools should be built or consolidated, establish annual budgets for the school system, and hire the Chief Executive Officer (superintendent) to implement public school policies and programs.

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2018, qualified voters in Kent County may vote for 2 candidates. Candidates must be registered voters in Kent County.

Filing Fee: \$ 25

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$2,000

Kent County Republican Party Central Committee

Duties: The party central committees make and guide policies of the party, finance state campaigns, and recommend candidates for state-sponsored positions. Should a vacancy occur between the primary and general elections in the party's nominations for statewide office or the U.S. Congress, that party's central committee is empowered to fill the vacancy. When a vacancy occurs in the General Assembly, the departing official's central committee recommends replacements for appointment by the Governor.

How Elected/Qualifications: Committee members must be residents of Kent County and be registered on the voting roles as Republicans. The members will be elected in the June 2018 Primary Election by registered Republicans. The number of seats to be filled is determined by the County Republican Central Committee.

Filing Fee: \$10

Term: 4 years

Salary: None

Kent County Democratic Party Central Committee

Duties: The party central committees make and guide policies of the party, finance state campaigns, and recommend candidates for state-sponsored positions. Should a vacancy occur between the primary and general elections in the party's nominations for statewide office or the U.S. Congress, that party's central committee is empowered to fill the vacancy. When a vacancy occurs in the General Assembly, the departing official's central committee recommends replacements for appointment by the Governor.

How Elected/Qualifications: Committee members must be residents of Kent County and be registered on the voting roles as Democrats. The members will be elected in the June, 2018, Primary Election by registered Democrats. The number of seats to be filed is determined by the County Democratic Central Committee.

Filing Fee: \$10

Term: 4 years

Salary: None

MUNICIPALITIES IN KENT COUNTY

All municipal elections are nonpartisan, so there are no primaries. All council seats are at large except in Chestertown. All municipalities have 1 Mayor and 4 council members.

Betterton: Mayor

How Elected/Qualifications: All qualified voters who reside in town limits of Betterton may vote for the Mayor. The mayor must be 25 years old, a resident of Betterton for 2 years, and a registered voter.

Election Date: 1st Saturday of October, 2018

Filing Deadline: Contact town hall 410-348-5522

Filing Fee: \$10.00

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$1,800

Betterton: Council Members

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2018, 2 council seats will be on the ballot. All qualified voters who reside in the town may vote for 2 candidates. Council members must 25 years old, a resident of Betterton for 2 years, and a registered voter.

Election Date: 1ST Saturday of October, 2018

Filing Deadline: Contact town hall 410-348-5522

Filing Fee: \$10.00

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$900

MUNICIPALITIES IN KENT COUNTY (cont.)

Chestertown: Mayor

How Elected/Qualifications: Qualified voters who are legal residents of the town may vote for one candidate. The mayor must be 25 years old, a resident of Chestertown for 2 years, and a registered voter.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Filing Deadline: October 6, 2017

Filing Fee: None

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$7,500

Chestertown: Council Members

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2017, 2 council seats will be on the ballot. These are for Precinct 1 and Precinct 3. Qualified voters may cast one vote for a candidate from the precinct in which the voter is registered. Council members must be a resident of Chestertown for 1 year, a resident of the precinct for 30 days, and a registered voter.

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Filing Deadline: October 6, 2017

Filing Fee: None

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$3,000

MUNICIPALITIES IN KENT COUNTY (cont.)

Galena: Mayor

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2017, qualified voters residing in the town limits may vote for one candidate. The mayor must be a resident of Galena for 1 year, a registered voter and have a permanent residence in Galena during the term of office.

Election Date: May 9, 2017

Filing Deadline: Contact Town Hall, 410-648-5151

Filing Fee: None

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$150.00/month

Galena: Council Members

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2017, qualified voters residing in the town limits may vote for 2 candidates. Council members must be a resident of Galena for 1 year and a registered voter.

Election Date: May 9, 2017

Filing Deadline: Contact Town Hall, 410-648-5151

Filing Fee: None

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: \$75.00/month

MUNICIPALITIES IN KENT COUNTY (cont.)

Millington: Council Members

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2017, qualified voters residing in the town limits may vote for 2 candidates. Council members must reside in Millington for 6 months and be a registered voter.

Term: 4 years; no term limits

Salary: None

Rock Hall: Council Members

How Elected/Qualifications: In 2017, qualified voters residing in the town limits of Rock Hall may vote for 2 candidates. Council members must be 25 years old, reside in Rock Hall for 2 years, and be a registered voter.

Election Date: May 6, 2017

Filing Deadline: April 10, 2017

Filing Fee: None

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$1,500

Additional information about these available positions may be obtained from several sources. A number of these are listed below. General information including requirements for filing and financial disclosure is available directly from the Maryland Board of Elections. More partisan information including campaigning and financial assistance is available from the State or County Central Committees.

Maryland Board of Elections:

(800) 222-8683; info.sbe@maryland.gov

Kent County Board of Elections:

(410) 778-0038; cheemoandia.blake@maryland.gov

Kent County Republican Central Committee:

(443) 907-6626; kentcountyrcc@gmail.com

Kent County Democratic Central Committee:

(443) 282-1500; info@KentDems.org

Libertarian Party of Maryland:

(800) MLP-1776; chair@lpmaryland.org

P.O. Box. Abingdon, MD, 21009

Green Party of Maryland

(410) 691-3204; info@marylandgreenparty.org

Betterton Town Office:

(410) 348-5522; info@townofbetterton.com

Chestertown Town Office:

(410) 778-0500; office@townofchestertown.com

Galena Town Office:

(410) 648-5151; info@townofgalena.com

Millington Town Office:

(410) 928-3880; millington@atlanticbbn.net

Rock Hall Town Office:

(410) 639-7611; sloller@rockhallmd.gov

Kent County Offices:

(410) 778-4600; kentcounty@kentgov.org



**P.O. Box 374
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410-810-1883**

<http://kent-lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com>