



CORRECTED OCTOBER 12, 2012

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

of

Anne Arundel County, MD



2012 GENERAL ELECTION **VOTERS' GUIDE**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, and its membership includes both women and men.

The League of Women Voters offers this free Voters' Guide to assist citizens in their decision-making as they prepare for the 2012 General Election. In the interest of **fairness, candidates' responses appear as submitted, without editing.** Answers end when the pre-established character limit is reached. A printable copy of the Anne Arundel County 2012 General Election Voters' Guide may be downloaded at aa.lwvmd.org.

Candidates who did not respond by the deadline, and those who wish to revise their responses, may do so online, prior to the General Election on November 6, 2012. To check for candidate updates, access election information and create a personalized ballot, **please visit the interactive 2012 Voters' Guide at Vote411.org.**

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County thanks all candidates who submitted answers to our questionnaires.

2012 Presidential General Election: Voters' Calendar

Tuesday, October 16	Deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation
Saturday, October 27	Early voting begins. Voting centers open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 28	Early voting continues. Voting centers open 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Mon.-Wed., October 29-31	Early voting continues. Voting centers open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, October 30*	Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, fax or email*
Thursday, November 1	Early voting concludes. Voting centers open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, November 6	General Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*After October 30, absentee ballots may be requested in person at the AA Board of Elections. Completed absentee ballots must be hand-delivered to the AA Board of Elections by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or mailed on or before November 6 and received by the AA Board of Elections by November 16, 2012.

Anne Arundel Board of Elections Hours & Location: www.aacounty.org/elections

Early Voting Locations: MDEarlyVote.com

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The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County
is pleased to present

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES' FORUM: MARYLAND DISTRICTS 3 & 4
Terence F. Smith, Moderator
Monday, October 15, 2012, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

* * * * *

2012 BALLOT QUESTIONS: VOTING FOR OR AGAINST
Thursday, October 25, 2012, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

We all have questions, about the issues and about the ballot.

On October 15, you can pose your questions to the Congressional candidates from Districts 3 & 4, and hear their responses.

On October 25, League members will answer your questions about the statewide and county ballot issues, and explain what it means to vote FOR or AGAINST.

Both programs are free and open to the public. Woods Memorial Church is located at 611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, MD 21146.

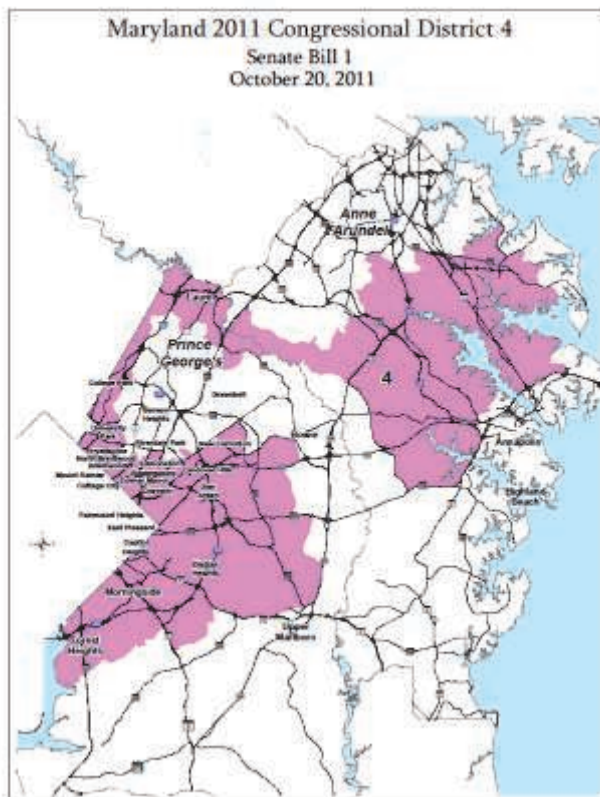
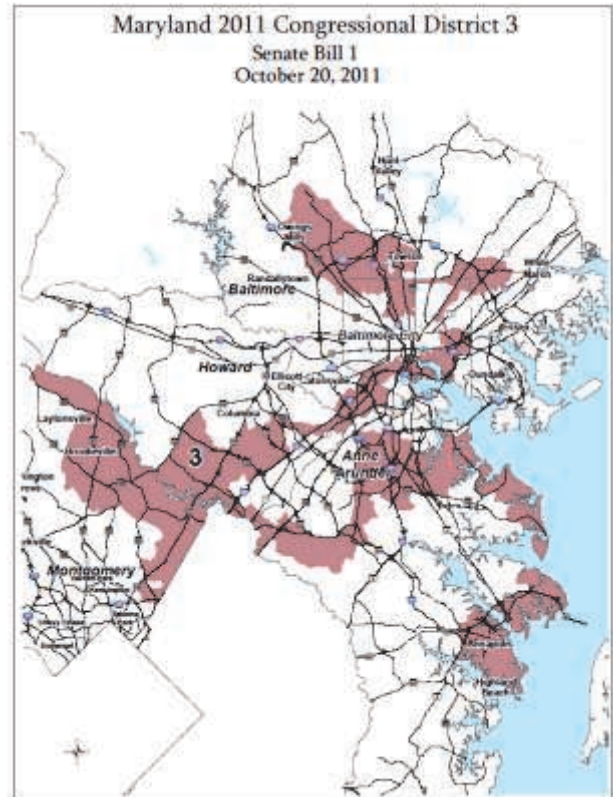
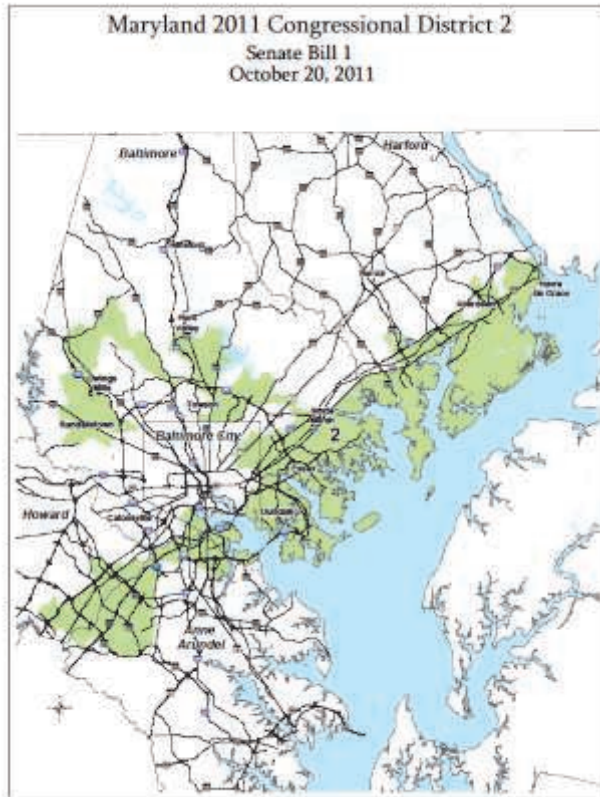
To learn more about these events, and to find a list of pre-election activities hosted by other area Leagues, please visit aa.lwvmd.org or email info@aa.lwvmd.org.

Informational programs such as these are funded by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. We welcome your participation and your support. Please consult the form on page 40 for instructions on making a donation. Thank you!

Congressional Districts

These maps reflect the Anne Arundel County congressional districts that will govern elections from 2012 to 2020. They were enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in October 2011.

To verify your election district, enter your address in the interactive Voters' Guide, Vote411.org, or the MD State Archives website, mdelect.net.



US President

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and is the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described 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.

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The popular vote for President and Vice President within each state determines how the members of the Electoral College may vote. There are 538 members in the Electoral College, with 270 votes required to win the Presidency. See <http://www.lwv.org/files/ElectingThePresident.pdf> for more details.

Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.

Base Salary: \$400,000 per year.

Questions for Presidential Candidates:

1. **Goals:** Please identify your top three goals if elected.
2. **Economy:** In this time of high unemployment, what are the most important things that should be done **to improve our nation's economy?**
3. **Education:** How can the federal government, in collaboration with other levels of government, provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?
4. **Deficit:** Please explain why you do or do not support cutting Medicare and Social Security to address the federal deficit.
5. **Campaign Finance:** Please explain why you do or do not support requiring timely and full disclosure of all political expenditures in federal campaigns.
6. **Environment:** Please explain why you do or do not support the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to enforce strong clean air and clean water standards in America.

NOTE: All presidential candidates who met these three criteria were invited to participate in the Guide:

1. *The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President;*
2. *The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and,*
3. *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.*

Qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to six specific questions. Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter. **If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not responded."** appears. Additional information on presidential candidates is available at VOTE411.org.

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

*The copyright for the information for the US Presidential race is held by the
League of Women Voters Education Fund.*

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1 pair of candidates.

Barack Obama (Illinois) and Joe Biden (Dem)

Website: www.barackobama.com

Goals: As a nation, our challenges can be met by rebuilding the middle class and our economy on a stronger foundation. I have laid out a set of concrete goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and create an economy built to last.

Economy: When I took office we were losing private sector jobs at a rate of nearly 800,000 a month. Now we have experienced 30 straight months of private sector job growth, creating 4.6 million private sector jobs. I have proposed steps to create a million more jobs by preventing teacher layoffs, putting construction workers back to work, bringing jobs back from overseas, and helping small businesses grow.

Education: My administration spurred 46 states to raise standards for teaching and learning and strengthened Head Start. Millions of students are paying less for college because we cut



US President

student loan subsidies for banks and doubled scholarships. We will recruit 100,000 math and science teachers, train 2 million workers for real jobs through community colleges, and cut the growth of tuition in half.

Deficit: Social Security and Medicare are sacred compacts with seniors who earned benefits after a lifetime of hard work. I added eight years to the solvency of Medicare without cutting benefits by cracking down on waste, fraud, and subsidies to insurance companies. I have proposed steps to strengthen Medicare and Social Security without slashing benefits or subjecting it to the whims of the stock market.

Campaign Finance: Powerful special interests should not drown out the voices of the American people. We need to pass the bipartisan Disclose Act that would establish the toughest-ever disclosure requirements for election-related spending. I also support campaign finance reform, by constitutional amendment if necessary.

Environment: Nothing is more important than ensuring the air we breathe and the water we drink is safe. We have broken decades of gridlock to double fuel mileage standards, effectively cutting your cost at the pump in half and reducing air pollution. And we've set standards for new mercury and other toxic air emissions from power plants and other sources that combined will save up to 21,600 lives a year.

Mitt Romney (Massachusetts) and Paul Ryan (Rep)

Website: www.mittromney.com

Personal Statement: : I am running for president because I believe in America and know that our best days are still ahead. I will make it my priority to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again.

Goals: The first priority of a Romney Administration will be to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again. We must get our fiscal house in order.

President Obama has put our nation on an unsustainable course. As president, Mitt Romney will set the country on the path to a balanced budget. And he will ensure we have a military so strong that no adversary would want to test it.

Economy: Mitt Romney will get America back to work by reforming our tax code so businesses can hire more workers, developing our domestic energy resources to create new jobs here at home, reversing burdensome job-destroying regulations—including Obamacare, and ensuring Americans **receive education and training for today's jobs. His plan will also get spending under control to prevent a debt crisis.**

Education: Mitt Romney believes that this important goal begins with providing parents with increased choice and information. He has put forth a plan that would allow federal funding to follow low-income and special needs students to the school of their choice. This plan also would support high quality charter schools in scaling up and reward states that recruit and retain the best teachers.

Deficit: Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare are large parts of the federal budget. Mitt **Romney's plan to reform these programs will not only protect the benefits and services of current seniors and those nearing retirement, but will strengthen the programs so they are available for future generations.**

Campaign Finance: Mitt Romney understands that money can be a corrupting influence in politics. But layers of regulations have not taken money out of politics; they have instead created a system of PACs that are not accountable to the candidates they support. He believes the best solution is swift and full disclosure of all donations to candidates. This allows the American people to hold politicians accountable.

Environment: Mitt Romney is proud of the environmental progress that we have made to improve our **nation's air and water quality and supports continued progress. However, while our air and water laws** have served us well over the years, he recognizes that they are significantly out of date and in need of reform.

Gary Johnson and James P. Gray (Lib)

Website: www.garyjohnson2012.com

Personal Statement: After having built a successful business, I entered public service by asking the people of New Mexico to give me an opportunity to bring common sense leadership to the Office of Governor. **I pledged to reduce taxes, reduce the size of state governme...**



US President

Goals: 1. Balance the Federal Budget. 2. Cut Federal spending by the amount necessary to eliminate deficit spending without raising taxes. 3. Remove the United States from unnecessary and costly foreign wars and interventions, including Afghanistan.

Economy: The Federal Budget must be brought under control to eliminate the massive deficits that are threatening the economy and our security. Removing the burden of deficits and debt will restore confidence and free up capital to permit the economy to grow. I advocate a consumption tax which would allow us to eliminate taxes on income, capital gains and businesses – creating millions of new jobs.

Education: The Federal government cannot and should not try to provide public education. Decades of increasing federal interference in education has done little other than stifle innovation and competition in public education. Education should be left to the states, which will permit the types of innovation and education choices that will allow us to regain its competitive advantage in global education.

Deficit: It is not possible to preserve health care programs for future generations, while bringing federal spending under control and not reducing Medicare. Not addressing Medicare and Medicaid spending will result in an insolvent system. Under a program of block grants, the states can fashion their own health care programs for those who need assistance, more effectively than the Federal government.

Campaign Finance: Full and immediate disclosure and transparency for campaign contributions and expenditures is the only effective way to give the American public confidence in the system and allow them to make their own decisions regarding the propriety of how one candidate or another finances his or her campaigns.

Environment: **The Federal government's most fundamental role is to protect citizens. To the extent that** fulfilling that role requires enforcement actions by the EPA, that enforcement should be reasonable, but adequate to protect us from harm. The EPA, however, should not be in the business of managing the environment through regulations that force decisions that should be left to the marketplace, such as energy

Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala (Grn)

Website: www.jillstein.org

Personal Statement: We can't afford four more years of Wall Street bailouts and an economy for the superrich. We must guarantee every individual a job at a living wage, quality health care, tuition-free education, Social Security and a healthy climate and environment.

Goals: I stand for a Green New Deal that will deliver 1) A recession-proof economy that provides a job at a living wage for every American willing and able to work, 2) An economy based on clean, renewable energy, 3) Replacement of the predatory Wall Street banks with a public interest banking system, and 4) A real democracy in which politicians are accountable to voters not big money donors.

Economy: My Green New Deal will create 25 million jobs through a nationally funded but locally controlled direct employment initiative. This will eliminate long term unemployment by letting workers simply go to the local employment office and get a job. It will deliver the most effective stimulus of all: millions of workers with paychecks.

Education: I will end Washington's attempts to promote high stakes testing, corporatization of public schools, and destructive union-busting schemes. I will repeal the misguided No Child and Race to the Top laws and refocus on creating schools that prepare students for lifetime learning: full funding, small class sizes, teachers that are well trained, respected, and compensated, and parental involvement.

Deficit: Neither Medicare nor Social Security will be cut under the Green New Deal. I will guarantee health care for everyone under a Medicare for All reform that will save trillions by streamlining the massive, wasteful, health insurance bureaucracy and ending runaway medical inflation. I will make Social Security permanently solvent by lifting the income cap on the payroll taxes.

Campaign Finance I support full disclosure of donor identities. But we must do more to eliminate the poisonous impact of big money on our democracy. We must amend our Constitution to prevent corporations from stealing our democratic rights by claiming the same rights as real people. We also need to end the buying of elections by providing clean money funding for candidates that agree to spending limits.

Environment: We cannot afford the health injuries, natural resource losses, and ecological disintegration that result from lax EPA enforcement. I will require EPA to address new threats to our air, land, water,

US President

and climate from hydrofracking, deepwater drilling and more. EPA must fully implement the ozone standards that were killed by the Obama Administration.

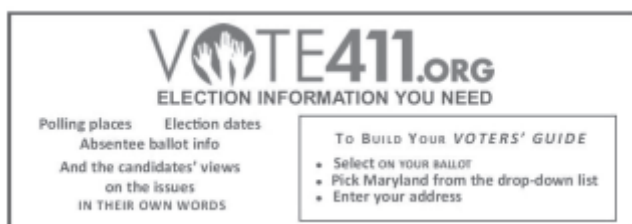
NOTE: Additional information on the Presidential candidates may be found at Vote411.org.

The copyright for the information for the US Presidential race is held by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

As of 18 Sep 2012, the Maryland Board of Elections lists these people as write-in candidates for the office of the US President on the Maryland state ballot. These people did not meet criteria set by the LWV Education Fund and were not asked questions. People can file as write-in candidates until the week before the election, so more names may be available at the MD Board of Elections.

Write-In Candidates

US President	Running Mate	Political Affiliation
Tiffany Renee Briscoe	James Orlando Ogle	Democratic
Dennis Knill		Democratic
Matthew Lydick		Republican
Barbara A. Prokopich		Republican
Santa Claus		Independent
Richard Duncan		Independent
James Clymer		Constitution
Virgil Goode		Constitution
Ross C. Anderson "Rocky"	Luis J. Rodriguez	Other
Merlin Miller	Harry V. Bertram	Other
Leon Leo Ray		Other
Michael David Boyles		Unaffiliated
Theodis (Ted) Brown Sr.		Unaffiliated
Paul Chehade	Steve McAllister	Unaffiliated
David M. Crosby		Unaffiliated
Fred Donald Dickson Jr		Unaffiliated
Robert William Dietz		Unaffiliated
Nelson Keyton		Unaffiliated
Cecil James Roth		Unaffiliated



US Senator

Duties: Senators share the responsibility with Representatives for enactment of the nation's laws as provided for in the U.S. Constitution. They may also conduct investigations on issues of national importance. The Senate is charged with ratifying treaties established by the President and confirms Presidential appointments of Cabinet members, federal judges and foreign ambassadors.

How Elected: The Senate consists of 100 members, two from each state. They are elected by a state at large and serve for 6 years. One-third of the Senate is up for election every two years. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age and must have been a citizen of the United States for at least 9 years.

Term: Six years.

Base Salary: \$174,000.

Questions for US Senators:

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** What are your qualifications/experience for this office?
2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** What, if anything, should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs?
3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** What are your views on addressing the federal deficit and producing revenue?
4. **HEALTH CARE:** What is your position on the Affordable Health Care for America Act?
5. **IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, do you support to immigration policy?
6. **ENVIRONMENT:** What, if anything, should the federal government do to slow down the rate of climate change?
7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** What will you do to reach beyond partisan dogma to resolve issues?
8. **PRIORITIES:** What are your legislative priorities?

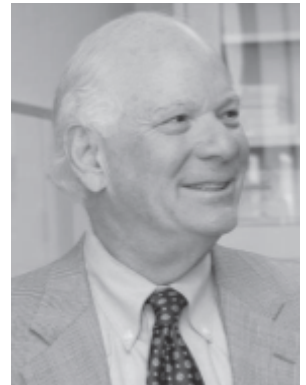
Candidate responses were limited to 400 characters. All answers appear exactly as submitted. Contact information may be found at www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2012/general_candidates/index.html.

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

Ben Cardin (Dem)

Website: www.bencardin.com



1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** U.S. Senator 2007-present; Member of U.S. House of Representatives, 1986-2007; Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates, 1979-1986; I have been a leading voice in Congress on health care, retirement security, the environment and fiscal issues.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** The federal govt has to invest in programs that boost job creation & help small business while still protecting/supporting our children, seniors, clean air/water, & important values we hold dear. We need a credible, balanced plan to control our debt while investing in modernizing our transportation, energy & water systems. We also need to invest in education so our workers can out-compete anyone.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** Key to restoring our fiscal health is putting people back to work. Working Americans rely less on govt services, they buy more –which helps the economy–and they pay taxes. We need to grow the Middle Class. We need a balanced approach to control our budget. It requires sensible cuts in govt spending coupled with tax fairness, closing loopholes & having millionaires/billionaires pay a fair share.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** I am proud that quality health care now is a right & not a privilege for all Americans. **I strongly supported the Affordable Care Act. I authored provisions to guarantee children's dental care, expand preventive services for seniors & establish NIH's Minority Health Institute. Americans are now protected from private insurance companies' abusive practices and have more affordable health insurance.**

5. **IMMIGRATION:** Our nation has a proud immigration history. But our immigration & border security system is broken & must be fixed. We must secure our borders. Then we must find a way for illegal **immigrants to come forward & correct their status without amnesty. I am a DREAM Act cosponsor. It's a compassionate bill recognizing that innocent children should have an opportunity to help build & defend our nation.**

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** I support a comprehensive bill on climate change to protect the environment from

US Senator

the negative effects of greenhouse gas pollution, put an end to our reliance on foreign oil, create jobs, and improve national security. I was an original cosponsor of comprehensive climate change legislation that would promote major job growth in new energy while dramatically reducing destructive air pollution.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** I stand up for my Democratic values, but I still believe that we can come together to find common ground on issues that impact our economy, health, environment and national security. I have a successful record working across party lines and will continue to reach out to Republican lawmakers on issues including help our military, mountaintop removal mining, foreign policy, budget, tax/retirement.

8. **PRIORITIES:** My highest priority is more jobs for Maryland & protecting the jobs we have. Our economy is improving slowly, but there are too many Marylanders still struggling. We can get more Americans working again by investing in America. I also will protect health care reform, invest in small business, protect Social Security/Medicare, reduce our dependence on foreign oil & work for clean water for all.

Daniel John Bongino (Rep)

Website: www.bongino.com



1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** As a former Secret Service Agent, I was one of the lead security representatives for Presidential visits. I designed training programs for the Service on investigative tactics and led the investigation breaking the largest fraud ring in Maryland's history. I own three small businesses and have graduate degrees in Psychology and Business. **Most importantly, I'm a husband and father to two girls.**

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** Government must refocus its efforts and pursue a business climate that is favorable for job creation and investment. We need to streamline, flatten and broaden the tax code. Eliminate deductions and lower corporate and capital gains tax rates to encourage investment to create quality jobs. Government needs to stop impeding the American spirit by encouraging and not punishing success.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** **The government is not suffering from a lack of tax receipts, it's lacking the discipline to do the work necessary to eliminate wasteful spending.** Contributing to this problem is the deep roster of career bureaucrats who are bound to their donors and the earmarks that curry their favor. We must elect fresh, new voices to government who are willing to make the tough decisions necessary for change.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** Inserting government bureaucrats between you and your doctor while at the same time increasing the cost of insurance coverage is a bad idea. These factors combined with a loss of freedom and liberty through the individual mandate is not the answer to fixing our healthcare system.

5. **IMMIGRATION:** We must re-evaluate the current chain migration and diversity visa based system so **that we can attract the world's best and brightest minds. We must enforce our immigration laws and** avoid rewarding illegal behavior. We will welcome immigrants with open arms, but they must follow the established laws and procedures.

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** Protecting and developing our environment and natural resources must be a priority. The climate is changing as it always has. There is currently no broad-standing consensus on the factors causing climate variability. We must consider the cost any actions have on job opportunities for our lower income workers and small businesses before act hastily to solve a problem without a verifiable cause.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** **I'm running to give real representation to the working Marylanders. I am not a member of a privileged political class that speaks for "the common man" only after the phrases** have been poll tested. I know first hand the feeling of hunger and the value of a few extra dollars, through reduced tax rates, in a paycheck. I will be guided by these principles in my efforts to bring change to government.

8. **PRIORITIES:** Quality job production must be at the forefront of any legislative agenda. Real tax reform, domestic energy production, regulatory reform, a balanced budget amendment and the re-fortification of a robust, prosperous economy will be my guiding principles.

US Senator

Dean Ahmad (Lib)

Website: www.ahmadforussenate.info/



1. QUALIFICATIONS: 46 years political activism including Chair of MD Libertarian Party (LP), secretary of the LP-US and 5-time member of LP Platform Committee; civic activist for 30 years including two-term president of the Montgomery Civic Federation; 20 years as policy expert including president of the Minaret of Freedom Institute; taught university courses on political science, development, and social change.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: Short-term: End all intervention into the economy. This would include the actions of the Federal Reserve which have been hidden from view. Congress needs to restore the integrity of our dollar. Medium term: Replace taxes on production with taxes on location value of land. Long-term: A serious program to end the deficit and reduce the federal debt by replacing economic intrusion with competition.

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: Ending funding of the current undeclared wars; immediately stop all corporate welfare; rapidly phase out any government program that does not serve the purposes of maintaining federal courts or national defense against us or an ally we are treaty-bound to defend, and turn them over to civil society institutions, business, and/or the state and local governments as is appropriate.

4. HEALTH CARE: I would repeal it. The AHCA foolishly tries to solve problems caused by federal intervention into the health care system with yet more federal intervention. Instead we should replace the current system with one that empowers the health consumer and repeal all federal laws that prevent doctors from giving free care to the needy and all restraints on interstate competition in health insurance.

5. IMMIGRATION: Our system of immigration puts unnecessary obstacles in the way of persons trying to come here to earn an honest living thus giving incentives to maintain an undocumented status. I would replace this cumbersome immigration process with a simpler one that will allow any foreigner without criminal history or intentions with a simple, transparent path to guest worker status and/or citizenship.

6. ENVIRONMENT: The entire current system of ineffective regulation has provided legal excuses for environmental damage. I would replace it with a new system of zero-tolerance that would make those who damage the environment 100% liable for the damage they demonstrably cause. This would require taking away the liability limitations corporations now hide behind when they seek private profit at public expense.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: As a Libertarian, I would be beholden to neither of the two political parties who have brought us to the current impasse nor to the special interests respectively supporting those parties. It is imperative that third parties (Libertarians and others) be included in the process in order to raise the level of debate, to expand the options under consideration, and to open up the scope of resolutions.

8. PRIORITIES: 1. End the wars. 2. Restore civil liberties. 3. End the deficit, reduce the debt and restore the integrity of the dollar. 4. End all corporate welfare.

S. Rob Sobhani (Una)

Website: www.sobhaniformaryland.com



1. QUALIFICATIONS: I am qualified based on my solution-oriented work in the private sector. Running my own business has taught me valuable lessons on how to grow and continuously compete in a dynamic market. In my own business experience, I have already accomplished what I am advocating. I would bring a new perspective on how some of our country's problems can be solved.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: **For Maryland, I've proposed five major private-sector funded initiatives aimed at bringing over \$5 billion of investment into the state, and creating over 100,000 jobs.** This would be done through a wide array of development projects. I believe my plan for Maryland can serve as a guideline to other states on how they can turn their fortunes, and it is time to make Maryland a model for America.

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: Government programs will need to be cut in order to limit expenditures. Running

US Senator

continuous deficits is putting us at risk of economic collapse. I support action to rein in spending, but not across-the-board cuts which would prove detrimental to our goals, or marginalize social safety nets.

Every federal agency's budget must be reviewed, and our public sector must be efficient with less funding.

4. HEALTH CARE: The AHCA addresses some important deficiencies in the health care system, but **doesn't sufficiently tackle the underlying problem Americans face in terms of health coverage, affordable access to quality care.** We need to take market mechanisms into a more thoughtful account so they, and not the government, offer solutions that are affordable. That means a reform of our health care industry.

5. IMMIGRATION: Existing laws against illegal entry into the country must begin being enforced. Additionally, working to instill economic growth, and the rule of law into all nearby nations should be a priority of ours in foreign affairs. If countries around us can begin to grow and prosper, the need for individuals to leave them fade. Furthermore, I propose making English our country's official language.

6. ENVIRONMENT: Our main priority should be taking advantage of the energy resources our country already has, while combining their utilization with environmentally sound initiatives aimed at sustaining **our nation's natural beauty.** We need to make better use of our technological advantages in order to export solar and other clean energy know-how to other countries that also have a role to play in climate change.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: **It's time to set a new example for the old political establishment.** I'm holding myself accountable for my campaign pledges by promising not to seek a second term should I fail to deliver on them. This sets an example I hope others might follow, and if they do, this will be a big step forward for effective government. My approach is best symbolized by an open door to anyone willing to work with me.

8. PRIORITIES: **My plan for Maryland's economic recovery being realized as quickly as possible.**

Introducing practical legislation to promote job growth and a more positive business environment will be key initiatives that I will lead. Also, tax deductions for post-secondary tuition that would be transferrable to employers in the case of student loan re-payment incentivizing job growth and education.

Write-in Candidates

Lih Young (Write-In) (Dem)

Website: vote-md.org/intro.aspx?id=mdyounglih

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Reformer, advocate, activist; promoting fairness, freedom, justice, peace; accountability, cost-**effectiveness; identified "socio-** political- election - media- budget- legislation- **system problems"** local- global; testify, recommend to officials, law enforcement, 3 branches. TV producer, speaker: numerous programs. Expertise, commitment: intensive/extensive/diversified civic/political services.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: Prosecute/ eliminate "MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust/false/misleading practices; private-public; 3 branches, local- global, inc. non-profit. Protect people/families/businesses: lives, rights, reputation, assets, resources. Promote productivity, public interest; justification, cost-benefits, priorities, social needs, budget constraints; rigorous objective review by ac

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: Prosecute/eliminate MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust practices, disservices; abuse/misuse, waste, official misconduct; false excuses/ manipulation, public-private partnership, economic development, privatization. Big cut: unnecessary spending; all agencies, personnel, equipment; defense, military, wars, homeland security. Redirect resources for social needs; not give-away

4. HEALTH CARE: Support single-payer healthcare by government, affordable health care. Prosecute/ **eliminate "MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS"**, private-public, 3 branches; health services occupations, law enforcement; with threat, coercion, victimization/deprivation of rights, resources (private, public), document; unjust damage/injury (physical, mental, financial), medication; unlawful arrest, bond/ bail

5. IMMIGRATION: SUPPORT: Comprehensive immigration reform. Promote humanity, productivity, **justice, peace. Protect people, families, environment. Prosecute/eliminate "official misconduct-** fraud- crime- **networks"** operation, unjust practices, victimization, deprivation, destruction; threat, coercion;



US Senator

unjust arrest, detention, torture; defamation, propaganda; false records, concealment, destruction; abuses: law, power

6. ENVIRONMENT: End: dependence/subsidies for fossil fuels, nuclear energy, offshore oil drilling, spills. Improve regulation/oversight on energy related activities. Implement the Clean Air Act. Protect public health, environment. Curb carbon pollution. Invest in clean renewable energy, efficiency technology, infrastructure development.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: Prosecute/eliminate "MURDER-fraud- crime- **injustice networks**" operation, unjust practices, false/misleading statements; abuse, deprivation. Promote public interest, productivity, priorities, cost-benefit, check and balance. Legislation/ proposals: resources for priorities/ social needs; : simple, easy to understand; rigorous review/discussion by objective professionals; solve problems system-wide, i

8. PRIORITIES: **Prosecute/eliminate "MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS"**= "cruel tyranny"= "robbery machine"= "ROBBER-ISM"= "**super classes of crimes, parasites, welfares**": public-private; 3 branches; Improve quality, competition, accountability, public interest, "check and balance"; objective examinations, evaluations. Televisе issue/candidate forum/debate; disseminate/maintain meaningful information, archi

Brandy Baker (Write-In) (Una)

No response received by deadline.

Ed Tinus (Write-In) (Una)

Website: www.united-us.org

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Please go to united-us.org

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: please go to united-us.org

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: The federal government has enough revenue to operate effectively. If they were regulated with spending properly. united-us.org

4. HEALTH CARE: The federal governments jurisdiction of power does not pertain to domestic concerns. Health care is of the States jurisdiction to process.

5. IMMIGRATION: Please go to united-us.org

6. ENVIRONMENT: Please go to united-us.org

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: Create change to make parties in effective. Please go to united-us.org

8. PRIORITIES: One subject for each bill that is written clearly for all to understand. Please go to united-us.org



Duties: Representatives share responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided for in the U.S. Constitution. They may also conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives. Representatives have the responsibility for determining whether a public official should be tried if accused of a crime.

How Elected: The United States is divided into 435 Congressional districts that are reapportioned after each decennial census. All seats in the House of Representatives are up for election in every even-numbered year. A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and must have been a citizen for at least 7 years.

Term: Two years, no term limit.

Base Salary: \$174,000.

Questions for US Representatives:

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** What are your qualifications/experience for this office?
2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** What, if anything, should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs?
3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** What are your views on addressing the federal deficit and producing revenue?
4. **HEALTH CARE:** What is your position on the Affordable Health Care for America Act?
5. **IMMIGRATION:** What changes, if any, do you support to immigration policy?
6. **ENVIRONMENT:** What, if anything, should the federal government do to slow down the rate of climate change?
7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** What will you do to reach beyond partisan dogma to resolve issues?
8. **PRIORITIES:** What are your legislative priorities?

Candidate responses were limited to 400 characters. All answers appear exactly as submitted. Contact information may be found at www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2012/general_candidates/index.html.

District 2

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger (Dem)

Website: www.dutchforcongress.com

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served in public office for 27 years, first as a Baltimore County Councilman, then as Baltimore County Executive. I have served 5 terms in Congress, am Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee and a former appropriator. I was named a centrist in annual Congressional ratings and I support common sense legislation on issues that matter most, like creating jobs and national security.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** We must get our fiscal house in order by reducing government spending, eliminating our debt and increasing revenue where appropriate. We must relieve businesses of onerous, unnecessary regulations, increase our exporting, boost manufacturing and provide tax incentives for businesses to grow and hire.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** All new tax cuts or new spending must be offset by costs to other programs. We must review the entire federal budget for waste, redundancies and expendable programs. I believe we must take a balanced approach to deficit reduction through spending cuts, new revenue, entitlement reform and simplifying the tax code.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** I supported this legislation because it addresses soaring healthcare costs, the wellbeing of seniors and children, and the needs of small business. This bill does not impact Americans who have insurance they like, will help keep premiums in check and reduce costs for seniors. I believe it is wrong for insurance companies to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions and cancel it for sickness.

5. **IMMIGRATION:** We must first work to prevent illegal immigration by securing our borders. We must also crack down on businesses who hire illegal immigrants at the expense of American workers.

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** I support alternative energy sources to reduce our reliance on unstable foreign oil



nations and slow the effects of climate change. All options must be on the table including wind, solar and nuclear, which will reduce our carbon footprint and create jobs. We must fund energy research and provide tax credits for energy-efficient homeowners and businesses as well as fuel-efficient vehicles.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** I was recently named a centrist in annual Congressional ratings. I work closely with members of both parties on common sense legislation. A good example is my partnership **with the House Intelligence Committee's Chairman, Republican Mike Rogers. Together, we cut \$1 billion** from the intelligence budget without affecting our national security and are co-sponsoring a bill to address the cyber threat.

8. **PRIORITIES:** The issues that matter most are creating jobs, saving homes, reducing government waste and protecting our nation.

Nancy C. Jacobs (Rep)

Website: NancyJacobsforCongress.com

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Former small business owner, teacher, state senator, passed Jessica's Law, increased jail time for child sex offenders, passed Md's first anti-gang laws, prevented toll hike for cars on Hatem Bridge, twice named to MD Top 100 Women, voted Senator of the Year by MD State's Attorney Assoc. I bring about cooperation without compromising my principles. Mother of 3, wife, and grandmother of 7.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** Stop raising taxes and reduce the taxes we have. Put the brakes on big government spending. Quit over regulating businesses and let business do what they do best- create jobs.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** **Balance the budget. Don't continue to borrow more money from China to try to cover our debt. We need to rein in spending so we don't have this debt. Stop over regulating and put a sunset on all regulations.** Simplify and reform the U.S. tax code.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** Obama Care is unconstitutional and must be repealed. It is not the function of federal government to force citizens to buy any government approved product or service.

5. **IMMIGRATION:** Secure the border, enforce current immigration laws, and require the use of E-Verify when hiring employees. The price of Citizenship today should be as cherished and honored as it was when so many of our own parents and grandparents came to this country and earned their citizenship.

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** Scientists understand earth experienced significant changes over time that had nothing to do with man's activities. There isn't consensus regarding causes of climate change. Climate experienced changes prior to the use of fossil fuels. Fed government should use extreme caution before enacting laws causing further pain to fragile economy that effectively do nothing to slow down climate change.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** **I'll do the same thing I've always done. I'll work with both democrats and republicans to build logical common sense consensus and solutions.**

8. **PRIORITIES:** Repeal Obama Care, simplify and reform the U.S. tax code. Achieve American energy independence. Shrink the size of federal government and pass a balanced budget amendment. Stop borrowing money from China and learn to live within our means. Enact term limits.



Leo Wayne Dymowski (Lib)

Website: www.Leoforcongress.com

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Former Army paratrooper. Involved in the criminal justice system for over 20 years. Not bought and paid for by special interests like the incumbent. Lifetime taxpayer with common sense. Will not put party before country like the current members of congress.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** The government needs to stop treating business as the enemy. When you subsidize something you get more of it. When you penalize it you get less. We penalize investing, savings, and growth through our tax policies and subsidize unemployment and borrowing. Job creators are not the enemy, big government is. We have the highest corporate tax rate in the world. We should encourage job creators. We don't



3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** The problem is not that we are taxed too little, but spend too much. Congress is controlled by special interests. We can't afford to be a policeman for the world. Going into countries where they have been fighting each other for centuries is insane and costly. Examples of waste, 126 million in tax dollars on political conventions, 131 million advertising the National Guard on race cars! CUT!!

4. **HEALTH CARE:** When you buy car insurance, you want coverage for catastrophies like accidents. Imagine the cost if insurance paid for gas and oil changes. Health insurance is the same. It shouldn't pay for aspirins, birth control, and bandaids. Obama care will be the straw that bankrupts the country and destroys the finest health care in the world.

5. **IMMIGRATION:** Unlike my opponents, I oppose the dream act. Common sense. Limit birthright citizenship to those whose parents are here legally. Free education, healthcare, welfare, etc. work as a magnet to draw illegals in. Turn off the spigot. Create more visa opportunities for the type of immigrants we want to attract.

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** The federal government can't get out of its own way. This is just another way for them to try to control more of our lives. Real science experts can't even agree on the problem. The matter must first be settled before we can agree on solutions.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** John Kennedy once said that sometimes party loyalty demands too much. He never met Dutch Ruppersberger. Dutch has not broken from the party on one major issue in 10 years. He does what he is told by party leadership. As a Libertarian I can work with either party on any idea I agree with. The democrats and republicans both put party ahead of country. Libertarians need not follow their example.

8. **PRIORITIES:** Dutch Ruppersberger is the bravest man in the world when it comes to sending other peoples kids to war. The millions of dollars he has received from defense contractors is just a coincidence! I will lead the fight against these wars. Spend that money here. In 6 months Dutch received \$70,000 from utility companies. Wonder why your bills are so high? I will not even allow lobbyists in my office.

Write-in Candidates

Ray Bly (Write-In) (Rep)

No response received by deadline.

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

John Sarbanes (Dem)

Website: www.johnsarbanes.com

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Congressman Sarbanes has served in Congress since 2007. Born and raised in Baltimore, he has experience working in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Before coming to Congress, he worked with the Maryland State Superintendent, represented non-profit hospitals and senior living providers and championed efforts to protect consumers and ensure fair treatment in the workplace.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** One of my top priorities in Congress is creating jobs for Americans. We can get our economy moving again by literally rebuilding America – schools, parks, roads and public transportation are in desperate need of repair. We can spark a resurgence in manufacturing – **“made in America” once more** – if we rebuild here at home and invest in innovation and technology.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** We need a balanced approach to deficit reduction that cuts spending but does not endanger economic growth. Any comprehensive deficit-reduction package will include tough choices about entitlements, tax revenue, defense and discretionary spending. Enacting measures that will truly improve our fiscal condition will require shared sacrifice and tradeoffs between government services and tax policy.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** I supported ACA because I believe it will reduce the cost of health care and provide **access to care for those who currently don't have insurance. It will lower costs for seniors; ban discrimination due to pre-existing conditions; cap out-of-pocket expenses and do away with lifetime**



District 3

limits. I will work to ensure that the law is fully implemented.

5. IMMIGRATION: I support a policy that considers both national security and economic interests, as well as the need to provide a fair, legal framework for individuals who want to come to America. I support improved border security and law enforcement, a focus on punishing employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers, and a practical approach to addressing undocumented workers currently in the country.

6. ENVIRONMENT: The government can do many things to slow the rate of climate change: invest in clean energy technologies; cap and reduce greenhouse gases; require utility companies to generate energy from renewable sources; develop capabilities to capture and store carbon emissions; and advance smart grid technologies so electricity is delivered efficiently.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: I work every day to advance responsible legislation that accomplishes meaningful change and will have a positive impact on the American people. These successes give me the energy and optimism to continue to work for what I believe is right.

8. PRIORITIES: My legislative priorities include leading efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and protect the environment; expanding higher education opportunities to help students attend and afford college; advocating for campaign finance reform so that we can get special interest money out of politics; and pushing for full implementation of the health reform law.

Eric Delano Knowles (Rep)

Website: KnowlesforCongress.com



1. QUALIFICATIONS: Just like anyone reading this who meets the Constitutional criteria, it is our duty to take part in the government that presides over our lives. In addition to that I'm a veteran of the Air Force who has sworn an oath to the Constitution. I possess integrity and I have the fortitude to not be swayed by special interest. I know that my loyalty lies with the Constitution, Liberty and the People.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: It is imperative that the government immediately change our monetary policy, in accordance with the Constitution. The problem with our economy stems from the fact that our dollar is weak due to overprinting. This is compounded by too much government involvement in the private and free market through regulations and high taxation which stifles growth and creates doubt in employers.

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: The government should always pass a balanced budget. We should not spend money we do not have as this has become a national security issue putting us all at risk with their irresponsibility. Americans are taxed high enough already through many forms of taxation to include inflation. There is only one way to fix our deficit issue; less spending. Starting with the 2 wars we can no longer afford.

4. HEALTH CARE: No one should be forced by the Federal Government to purchase a product or service. If government really wanted health care to be affordable, they would get out of the business of regulating our choices and allow for more open markets. This would drive down prices and increase quality. With this bill, government wants to create a monopoly that only it controls. Raising costs and lowering quality.

5. IMMIGRATION: The path to citizenship for those wishing to come to the country should be made easier and faster. We should welcome all who would want to contribute to our prosperity. It is largely due to the fact that it is easier to come here illegally and make money that people choose that wrong path, even with facing the consequences of getting caught. Provide incentive for lawfulness, not lawlessness.

6. ENVIRONMENT: There is still much debate as to the causes of 'climate change' which used to be 'global warming' but now is able to encompass any change hotter or colder due to the terminology. Until the problem is universally defined and identified how does one formulate a plan to address an issue that is largely unknown? As far as the environment in general, government should enforce strict property rights.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: I will stress the fact that if we do not work together to responsibly and voluntarily reduce what government spends our tax dollars on; we will be forced to do it involuntarily when the economy continues to deteriorate due to a weak dollar and inflation. On issues of Liberty (Patriot Act, NDAA provisions, etc.), I will inform voters and let them vote out those who vote to violate our liberties.

US Representative

District 3

8. PRIORITIES: Repeal any legislation that violates our Bill of Rights. Force government to respect and defend our Liberties. Monetary reform. Spending reform. Reducing the burden of government in the aspects of our lives that it is incapable of administrating. Return powers delegated to the states, local government and individuals to their Constitutional balance in accordance with the 10th amendment.

Paul W. Drgos Jr. (Lib)

Website: pauld2012.com

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I have been a computer programmer for the last twenty years. When I was twenty-five years old I was member of the Chesterfield Homeowners Association. I have a strong support staff that will enable me to start immediately to implement my policy objectives. Unfortunately, my father was not a senator so I lack some political experience there.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: It is not the federal government's responsibility to create jobs. The federal government needs to reduce regulations to allow others to create the jobs. The only jobs that the federal government creates are done so with the taxpayers money. That is not a solution to anything.

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: The federal budget must be balanced. Immediately, not in thirty years. Eliminate much of the defense spending. Block grant medicare to the states. Spend less of the people's money. The Federal tax code should be used solely as a means of producing revenue. I would propose the introduction of a national sales tax and an elimination of all other Federal taxes. Let's try something different.

4. HEALTH CARE: I have no real position on the PPACA. It's over ten thousand pages long. Just like many of the Congresspeople who voted for it, I have not read it. I am sure there are good portions of the law. I am sure there are parts that need repealed. Again the question is why is the Federal government involved in this issue and what is it doing to make it worse?

5. IMMIGRATION: America is nation founded by immigrants. It is unAmerican to close the borders. Frankly, it is also poor policy. Immigration is the only way to be successful in the future. People come here illegally because the laws are too hard. Simplify them. That said, there must be order. You should have to apply in your country of origin if you are over 21 years old and not serving in the US military.

6. ENVIRONMENT: What can the Federal government do? The US is not the only country in the world. In fact, the US is producing less greenhouse gases because it is using more natural gas and less coal, because it is cheaper. The only true way to curb carbon monoxide emissions is with a carbon tax. However, a question needs to be asked. What is the proper climate. Is climate change necessarily bad?

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: As Libertarian, should I be elected I will by necessity have to reach beyond partisan dogma to resolve issues. There are no other Libertarians to caucus with. Perfect cannot be the enemy of good.

8. PRIORITIES: My first priority is to end the NDAA. My second priority is to bring all of our troops home and close all foreign military bases. My third priority is to introduce a ten year budgeting plan so that money is not needlessly spent because of departmental fears of losing funding. My fourth priority is the introduction of the Fair Tax. My fifth priority is to balance the Federal budget.



Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

Donna F. Edwards (Dem)

Website: www.donnaedwardsforcongress.com

1. QUALIFICATIONS: **I represent Maryland's 4th CD and serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Science and Technology Committee where I am ranking member on the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, the Committee on Ethics, and am an executive member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.**

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: Job creation is the top priority. We must pass **comprehensive jobs legislation, such as President Obama's American Jobs Act,**

District 4



which includes investing \$625 million in Maryland infrastructure projects that would create at least 8,100. I sponsored H.R. 689 which would increase and make permanent the R&D tax credit and increase the domestic manufacturing tax credit to spur innovation and create jobs.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** For the long-term fiscal health of this nation, we must reduce the deficit and balance our budget. However, that must not come at the expense of the well-being of working families **and our nation's most vulnerable. We must make the necessary investments in such things as education,** unemployment insurance, Pell grants, infrastructure, and our social safety net until the economy is fully recovered.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** I am a strong proponent of the Affordable Care Act. I championed a key provision to **prevent price gouging by enabling states to review private insurers' premium increases to determine if** they are excessive or unjustified, while holding insurance companies accountable. This provision has saved consumers millions of dollars.

5. **IMMIGRATION:** Finding a workable solution to the issue of immigration is critical to the nation's future. Changes to our immigration system cannot be done in a patchwork approach with 20, 30 or 50 different state laws. As we continue to see individual states create their own, often unfair, immigration policies, it is imperative that the federal government take the lead on comprehensive immigration reform.

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** The federal government must help slow the rate of climate change. Last year more than 22% of roll call votes were to undermine environmental protection. This acceleration shows a tendency to promote industry interests over environmental protection. I introduced legislation to promote green infrastructure into stormwater management, and improve air quality by upgrading construction equipment.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** Hyper-partisanship is detrimental to addressing our challenges. I have been open to bipartisanship, working across the aisle on several pieces of legislation. I will continue working with my colleagues to make public policy, not politics, the main concern. As a Member of the **Ethics Committee, I take very seriously the responsibility of "cleaning up" our House to restore integrity** to congress.

8. **PRIORITIES:** Job creation and economic growth are my top priorities. I am also leading the fight to protect entitlement programs and our federal workers who face ongoing attacks. Finally, we are seeing **the Citizens' United decision continue to allow our airwaves to be flooded with millions of dollars. I** reintroduced a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's flawed ruling.

Faith M. Loudon (Rep)

Website: www.FaithLoudon.com

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been involved with campaigns and politics for the last 30 years. I have volunteered in my community including public schools tutoring students with difficulties, as well as serving as president of two PTAs. I am active in my local church and held a statewide position. I believe we need more average citizens in Congress as opposed to

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** The federal government must create an environment where private sector employment can thrive. This means reducing regulation that cripples small businesses. When it costs thousands of dollars in federal regulation **per employee (Small Business Administration) that's not much of an incentive to h**

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** Our debt crisis is not the result of low revenue, but the result of overspending. Congress will NEVER fix its budget problem as long as they insist on pouring millions of dollars into **programs that don't work. As a Congresswoman, I would evaluate the budget and work towards cutting** all non-essential spending.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** Like anyone else, I would love for everyone in this country to have access to **affordable healthcare. However, I don't believe this particular bill is the way to accomplish that. Congress** should pass not one, but multiple bills that address each piece of healthcare reform individually. This should include tort reform to reduce f

5. **IMMIGRATION:** I believe we need to secure our borders and make it clear that illegal immigration will **not be rewarded. While children should not be punished for their parents' mistakes, they should not be rewarded either. For the sake of national security, we must know who's entering our country. People who** break the rules should not be allowed to ta



6. ENVIRONMENT: I believe God gave us this planet and we need to take care of it. We as citizens have the responsibility to look after our environment. I believe the government should promote and advocate environmentally friendly behavior. However, I also believe that environmental mandates do more harm than good. Su

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: Ultimately, good policy is good policy. I will vote for good policy regardless of who sponsors it. Bad policy is bad policy, and I will not vote for bad policy in the name of "bipartisanship" nor will I vote for the sake of keeping my party happy. 8. PRIORITIES: What are your legislative priorities? First and foremost, I want t

8. PRIORITIES: To return responsibility for Educational to the local level. Restore sensibility to health care. Restore American values.

Scott Soffen (Lib)

No response received by deadline.

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

District 5

Steny H. Hoyer (Dem)

Website: www.hoyerforcongress.com

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Through my years of public service, I have been honored to represent the people of Maryland's Fifth District. I am an effective, hardworking leader who produces results for our communities and I've been successful in my efforts to create jobs, improve our transportation infrastructure, and improve access to education.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: I am committed to creating jobs and fostering an environment in which our economy will continue to recover. Democrats' Make It In America plan will do exactly that by pushing our recovery forward and ensuring America remains the most competitive place for manufacturers to hire workers, produce goods, and sell those goods at home and abroad.

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: We need to address our deficits in a balanced way that maintains the solvency of our most important programs while reforming the tax code to make it fair. This kind of big and balanced approach will start paying down our debt while providing certainty to help support our economic growth.

4. HEALTH CARE: I voted for the Affordable Care Act, which expanded access for all Americans to quality, affordable health care while implementing reforms that will help constrain the growth in health care spending.

5. IMMIGRATION: Reform should be practical and comprehensive starting with strong border control and enforcement. It must ensure that businesses have enough workers, but hold accountable those that hire illegal workers, and require those here illegally pay a fine, learn English, and get to the back of the line to earn citizenship.

6. ENVIRONMENT: I support comprehensive legislation to decrease domestic emissions of greenhouse gases to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. I also support emissions reducing policies such as: stronger vehicle fuel economy standards, increased low carbon electricity generation, and enhanced efficiency of electric generation and transmission, buildings, and homes.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: I've been in Congress long enough to know what works and what doesn't, and I've experienced government working best when our representatives work together. I've been proud to work across party lines throughout my entire career, and that has resulted in real results for the people of the Fifth District.

8. PRIORITIES: My main priority is job creation, and I'm leading the Make It In America plan to create jobs and help businesses succeed by investing in education and innovation. We must balance job creation with long-term deficit reduction, and I hope to work in a bipartisan way to make those tough decisions.



Tony O'Donnell (Rep)

Website: www.odonnellforcongress.com/

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I was elected to the MD House of Delegates representing District 29C in 1994, and currently serve as House Minority Leader. I am seated on the Environmental Matters Committee, and have served on various other boards and commissions. I am a US Navy veteran, a former employee of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, and I participate in a number of volunteer and charitable activities.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** 1. Establish an American energy policy that lowers the cost of energy by creating it here. 2. Reduce the regulatory burden on business; prove new regulations are necessary and not redundant, and enforce current law to maintain a clean and safe environment. 3. Repeal the unconstitutional PPACA, and pass health care reforms that will actually reduce costs and increase access.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** Washington must learn to live within its means like every American household does. To do that we must: 1. Keep Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare solvent by reforming them, while generating the revenue required by flattening and simplifying the tax code 2. Establish performance audits on federal spending that match funding to metrics, like business 3. Pass a balanced budget amendment

4. **HEALTH CARE:** Since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed, our health costs have continued to go up, our choices have continued to go down, and millions are still uninsured. The cost of full implementation is potentially catastrophic, and still unknown. We need real reform that will get the job done, and people and businesses can understand.

5. **IMMIGRATION:** Legal immigration is a powerful engine of growth, and made our nation exceptional in the world. We need to secure our borders first, then have a discussion on legal immigration.

6. **ENVIRONMENT:** Although reasonable people can disagree on the causes of warming, it is still a good idea to reduce emissions if economical and feasible. The most effective and reliable way to do this is to promote the use of American natural gas and new nuclear power plants. This will have the added benefit of job creation and economic stimulus. This can be implemented immediately.

7. **EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT:** We need to stop the strident political gamesmanship and start **demanding statesmanship out of our Congressman. Once a level of mutual desire to solve America's problems becomes more important than gaining political advantage at all cost by both sides we will be on the right track. I will support ideas supported by the other party if they make sense for solving America's problems.**

8. **PRIORITIES:** 1. Address the debt by balancing the federal budget, reforming entitlements and the tax code, and ending wasteful spending 2. Create jobs and revive the economy by enacting a national energy policy, engaging in regulatory reform, and enacting sensible healthcare reform 3. Maintain American exceptionalism by securing our borders, preserving traditional marriage, and offering school choice

Arvin Vohra (Lib)

Website: votevohra.com

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** I am over 25 and a United States citizen. Beyond that, I have run my own business, Arvin Vohra Education, since 2001. I have written two books, most recently Lies, Damned Lies, and College Admissions, and I developed the software program Vocabulary Synapse. I currently serve on the Libertarian National Committee, and on the executive board of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

2. **NATIONAL ECONOMY:** You know what's better than a job? The chance to start your own business. Right now, the government prevents small businesses from starting, by creating bizarre and unnecessary regulations. If you want to open a hair salon, food truck, school, or lemonade stand, you face a mountain of foolish regulation. Small businesses (like mine) provide 75% of new jobs. Let's get out of their way.

3. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** Balancing the budget requires more than just vague notions of "cutting spending", and requires that we carefully consider the appropriate use of government power. 1. The government has no business protecting people from themselves. I want to end the drug war, end T.V. and radio censorship via the FCC, and end raw milk raids. 2. Stop using the military for nation building and world police.

4. **HEALTH CARE:** I don't want to lower our health care to the level of our government-run public schools, which have become national embarrassments. Until now, our health care system has been world



class. I oppose any and all government involvement in healthcare, at the national, state, or local levels. I oppose Romneycare just as much as I oppose Obamacare.

5. IMMIGRATION: We should make it far easier for people to get into America, and far harder for them to receive welfare or social services. We should welcome those who come here to work and build businesses. But those who want to come to America to collect welfare and social services should not be able to do so. Let's attract the best and brightest, and repel drains on the system.

6. ENVIRONMENT: The government should focus on its own CO2 emissions before it focuses on private sector CO2 emissions. For example, the U.S. Military is one of the world's largest polluters. A single fighter jet can burn 40,000 gallons of jet fuel an hour. We can reduce CO2 emissions by dramatically scaling back our military. We should use it for defense only (not nation building or world policing).

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: Since I am neither a Republican nor a Democrat, I believe I will have a unique ability to work well with members of both parties, as well as independents, Libertarians, etc. That said, I have no intention of compromising my principles. I will oppose unjustified government meddling and waste with everything at my disposal.

8. PRIORITIES: 1. End the Drug War. Each of us owns, and is responsible for, our own bodies. Protecting people from themselves is preposterous and expensive. 2. Dramatically reduce spending, by dramatically reducing the role of government in our personal lives. 3. Get the government out of education. Education requires intelligence and creativity. Governments rarely have either.

Bob Auerbach (Grn)

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Lifelong peace activist; active since 1930's in election reforms. Public policy needs voices for peace. Green values include Nonviolence, Environmental Wisdom, Social Justice, & Grassroots Democracy. One very important qualification: unlike big party campaigns compromised by huge financial conflicts of interest, Green campaigns like this one are not based on taking money from wealthy donors.

2. NATIONAL ECONOMY: The present economic system is not sustainable. Maximizing short-term profits for wealthy corporations causes human suffering & **environmental damage**. See "Green New Deal" proposed by Dr. Jill Stein, http://www.jillstein.org/text_psou. A decrease in spending on destructive military activity (wars) would increase the resources available for programs that meet human needs.

3. FEDERAL BUDGET: Decrease military spending. Tax policy should be progressive: taxes should not go up on lower-income individuals & families.

4. HEALTH CARE: Greens support universal access to health care, which should not be a for-profit industry (health does not obey classical "market competition" principles of supply & demand). AHCA reflects a conflict of interest due to huge sums of \$\$\$ given to legislators ("campaign contributions") by for-profit insurance companies, pharmaceutical corporations & for-profit health care industry.

5. IMMIGRATION: U.S. should respect international human rights spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which Eleanor Roosevelt helped create in 1948). U.S. should not target immigrant young people for military recruitment. Provide educational opportunities for all, including undocumented people.

6. ENVIRONMENT: Present energy policy is unsustainable & dominated by big oil corporations that give huge "contributions" of money to government officials, who then ignore the public interest and instead subsidize their wealthy donors, deplete public resources, & degrade the environment. This conflict of interest resembles bribery and undermines democracy.

7. EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT: Congress doesn't work now & doesn't represent ordinary people. Both big parties are beholden to wealthy interests [See www.opensecrets.org], so even "bipartisan" action is rarely good for the public. The current patterns of big-party impasse are based mostly on special interest agendas, power-seeking & posturing & have little to do with genuine policy disputes. Greens offer an alternative.

8. PRIORITIES: End U.S. wars. Congress must recognize that U.S. is not above the law. Attacks (or threats to attack) another country are not a lawful "option." See U.N. Charter, Art. 2(4). Respect civil liberties (repeal so-called "PATRIOT Act"). Support a fair economy. Promote sustainable energy policy; protect environment. Reform election system for fair & open choice voting & proportional representation.



State

Circuit Court, 5th Circuit Judge

Duties: Judges preside in the Circuit Court, which is a trial court of general jurisdiction covering major civil cases and more serious criminal matters. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from District Court and certain administrative agencies.

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 must then stand for election at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy occurred. The judge may be opposed formally by one or more qualified members of the bar. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican ballots without party designation. The top vote-getters in the party primaries appear on the General Election ballot, again without party designation. Independents vote only in the general election.

Term: Fifteen years, no term limit.

Salary: \$140,352 annual base.

Questions:

1. QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications/experience for this office?
2. JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: What is the area of greatest need in the Maryland judicial system?
3. LEGAL NEEDS: What can be done to provide individuals with wider and better access to legal help and the legal system?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1.

Pamela L. North

No response received by deadline.

Court of Special Appeals, Judge At Large

The Court of Special Appeals is the second highest court in Maryland. It is composed of thirteen judges. Seven judges represent the seven appellate judicial circuits. The remaining six judges are at-large appointments. When there is a vacancy, the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, appoints a person duly qualified to fill the office. Once appointed, the judge holds the office until the next General Election occurring one year after the vacancy. At that time, the judge runs for continuance in office. The judge then runs for continuance every ten years thereafter.

Questions:

1. QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications/experience for this office?
2. JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: What is the area of greatest need in the Maryland judicial system?
3. LEGAL NEEDS: What can be done to provide individuals with wider and better access to legal help and the legal system?

Candidate

Vote for continuance in office: YES or NO

Stuart R. Berger

Website: N/A

1. QUALIFICATIONS: I have served on the Court of Special Appeals since January, 2012. Previously, I was a trial judge for 13 years, handling all types of cases before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.
2. JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: Improving the perception of the Judiciary and adequate resources to enable full and fair access for all the citizens of Maryland.
3. LEGAL NEEDS: The Court of Special Appeals recently produced "A Guide for Self-Representation" so that people who cannot afford counsel have the benefit of a guide to the practices and procedures of the Court of Special Appeals.

Anne Arundel Board Of Education

Compensation: \$6,000 per year

Membership: The Board is comprised of nine members: five adult Members, each of whom resides in a different legislative district (Districts 30, 31, 32, 33, and that part of District 21 that lies within Anne Arundel County); three adult Members appointed from the county at-large; and one Student Member, who is a regularly enrolled senior year student of good character and in good standing in a public high school. With the exception of the Student Member, all Board Members must be registered voters of Anne Arundel County and may not be an employee or contractor of the Board.

Selection: The adult Members are appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County. The Student Member is elected to the Board by the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) and confirmed by the Governor.

Term of Office: The eight adult Members are appointed to serve for a term of five years beginning July 1 after appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualifies, subject to the approval or rejection of the registered voters at the next general election following appointment. The Student Member serves for a term of one year, and continues to serve after graduation and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Duties: The powers and mandatory duties of the Board are divided into executive, legislative and quasi-judicial responsibilities. They include, but are not limited to the following: selecting and appointing the Superintendent of Schools; appointing personnel; continuous appraisal of the educational and administrative management of the school system; communicating and meeting with community members, staff and students; ratifying collective bargaining agreements; adopting policies, budgets, and courses of study; establishing school boundaries; making decisions on facility, procurement and financial matters; and deciding appeals.

Questions:

1. QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications/experience for this office?
2. PRIORITIES: What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the AACPS Board of Education?

At Large Candidate

Vote for continuance in office: YES or NO

Patricia Ray Nalley

No response received by deadline.

District 21 Candidate

Vote for continuance in office: YES or NO

Stacy Leigh Korbela

1. QUALIFICATIONS: Educator, PTA officer, parent, 15 years of human resources and employee-labor relations experience.
2. PRIORITIES: Improving college & career readiness, school nutrition, and the learning environment.

District 33 Candidate

Vote for continuance in office: YES or NO

Amalie Elizabeth Brandenburg

No response received by deadline.

Maryland Statewide Ballot Questions

QUESTION 1

Qualifications for Prince George's County Orphans' Court Judges

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 394 of the 2011 Legislative Session)

Amending Article IV, Section 40 of the Maryland Constitution

Requires judges of the Orphans' Court for Prince George's County to be admitted to practice law in this State and to be a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar.

Origin of the Ballot Question: In the 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation **requiring Orphans' Court judges in Prince George's County to be members of the Maryland Bar** passed both the House and Senate by a 3/5 majority, as required by the Maryland Constitution. In order for the amendment to become part of the Maryland Constitution, it must be on the 2012 General Election ballot and be approved by a majority of the votes cast both statewide and a majority in Prince George's County.

Present Practice: Orphans' Court judges hear all contested matters regarding a deceased person's estate, including validity of wills and legal questions involving transfers of property. The Orphans' Court also supervises estates that are probated judicially; approves accounts, awards of personal representatives' commissions, and attorney's fees in all estates; and has concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Courts in the guardianship of minors and their property.

Although many Orphans' Court judges are attorneys, they are not required to be lawyers or members of the state bar. In November of 2010, voters statewide and in Baltimore City adopted the requirement of being a member of the Maryland Bar for anyone serving as an Orphans' Court judge in the City.

Proposed Change: In addition to the requirement that Orphans' Court judges be citizens of the State and residents for the preceding 12 months in the county where they will serve, this constitutional amendment adds the additional eligibility requirement that Prince George's County Orphans' Court judges be admitted to practice law in Maryland and be members in good standing of the Maryland Bar. A ballot question to impose the same requirement on Baltimore County Orphans' Court judges will also be on the 2012 ballot.

Pros: Prince George's County Orphans' Court judges would be best prepared to carry out their duties if all individuals who seek this office are required to be fully trained and credentialed as attorneys in Maryland.

Cons: The Orphans' Court was designed as a lay court. Even though those who are elected to serve in this capacity in Prince George's County are usually attorneys, passage of this law would change a tradition in existence since Colonial times.

A vote FOR means: Orphans' Court judges in Prince George's County will be required to be attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar.

A vote AGAINST means: Orphans' Court judges in Prince George's County will not be required to be attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar.

QUESTION 2

Qualifications for Baltimore County Orphans' Court Judges

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 146 of the 2012 Legislative Session)

Amending Article IV, Section 40 of the Maryland Constitution

Requires judges of the Orphans' Court for Baltimore County to be admitted to practice law in this State and to be a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar.

Origin of the Ballot Question: In the 2012 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation **requiring Orphans' Court judges in Baltimore County to be members of the Maryland Bar** passed both the House and Senate by a 3/5 majority, as required by the Maryland Constitution. In order for the amendment to become part of the Maryland Constitution, it must be on the 2012 General Election ballot and be approved by a majority of the votes cast both statewide and a majority in Baltimore County.

Maryland Statewide Ballot Questions

Present Practice: Orphans' Court judges hear all contested matters regarding a deceased person's estate, including validity of wills and legal questions involving transfers of property. The Orphans' Court also supervises estates that are probated judicially; approves accounts, awards of personal representatives' commissions, and attorney's fees in all estates; and has concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Courts in the guardianship of minors and their property.

Although many Orphans' Court judges are attorneys, they are not required to be lawyers or members of the state bar. In November of 2010, voters statewide and in Baltimore City adopted the requirement of being a member of the Maryland Bar for anyone serving as an Orphans' Court judge in the City.

Proposed Change: In addition to the requirement that Orphans' Court judges be citizens of the State and residents for the preceding 12 months in the county where they will serve, this constitutional amendment adds the additional eligibility requirement that Baltimore County Orphans' Court judges be admitted to practice law in Maryland and be members in good standing of the Maryland Bar. A ballot question to impose the same requirement on Prince George's County Orphan's Court judges will also be on the 2012 ballot.

Pros: Baltimore County Orphans' Court judges would be best prepared to carry out their duties if all individuals who seek this office are required to be fully trained and credentialed as attorneys in Maryland.

Cons: The Orphans' Court was designed as a lay court. Even though those who are elected to serve in this capacity in Baltimore County are usually attorneys, passage of this law would change a tradition in existence since Colonial times.

A vote FOR means: Orphans' Court judges in Baltimore County will be required to be attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar.

A vote AGAINST means: Orphans' Court judges in Baltimore County will not be required to be attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar.

QUESTION 3

Suspension and Removal of Elected Officials

*Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 147 of the 2012 Legislative Session)
Amending Article XV, Section 2 of the Maryland Constitution*

Changes the point at which an elected official who has been charged with certain crimes is automatically suspended or removed from office. Under existing law, an elected official who is convicted or pleads no contest is suspended and is removed only when the conviction becomes final. Under the amended law, an elected official is suspended when found guilty and is removed when the conviction becomes final or when the elected official pleads guilty or no contest.

Origin of the Ballot Question: In the 2012 Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed a constitutional amendment (without any dissenting votes) that requires an elected official who enters a plea of guilty or no contest to any crime which is either a felony or is a misdemeanor related to their public duties and responsibilities and also involves moral turpitude for which the penalty may be incarceration shall be removed from office permanently and the office be deemed vacant. The amendment also provides for suspending an elected official from office at the finding of guilt rather than at conviction.

Present Practice: Under Section 2 of Article XV of the Maryland Constitution, any elected State or local official who, while in office, is convicted of a felony or who enters a plea of guilty or no contest to either a **felony or to specified misdemeanors related to the official's public duties and responsibilities, is** suspended from office without pay or benefits. During the period of suspension, the office is filled temporarily in the manner that it would be if it were vacant. If the conviction becomes final, after judicial review or otherwise, the elected official is removed from office and the office is deemed vacant.

Under current law, a conviction is considered to occur upon sentencing. Sentencing may occur months after an official is found guilty of the crime. If the conviction is reversed or overturned, the elected official is reinstated to the office for the remainder, if any, of the term of office during which the elected official was suspended. All pay and benefits are restored.

Maryland Statewide Ballot Questions

Proposed Change: This change would provide for the immediate suspension of any elected official who is found guilty of the specified crimes even if sentencing has not yet occurred and for the immediate removal from office, without the possibility of reinstatement, of an elected official who pleads guilty or no contest to the specified crimes. The change would apply to elected officials serving in State, County or municipal government positions.

Pros: Suspension or removal from office will take place at the same time as the guilty verdict or the guilty or no contest plea, rather than waiting for what can be a lengthy period until sentencing. Under both situations, the vacancy would result in an earlier replacement of the convicted elected official via whatever mechanism is in the city or county charter or the state constitution for filling vacancies.

Cons: The current provision that removes someone from office only when the verdict becomes final allows for those rare situations where the trial judge vacates a guilty verdict because of a serious error that made the trial unfair or because of juror misconduct.

A vote FOR means: Elected officials will be removed from office or suspended immediately upon being found guilty or upon pleading guilty or no contest.

A vote AGAINST means: A two-step process will continue in the removal of elected officials who are found guilty or who plead guilty or no contest.

QUESTION 4

Public Institutions of Higher Education Tuition Rates

Referendum Petition (Ch. 191 of the 2011 Legislative Session)

Establishes that individuals, including undocumented immigrants, are eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at community colleges in Maryland, provided the student meets certain conditions relating to attendance and graduation from a Maryland high school, filing of income taxes, intent to apply for permanent residency, and registration with the selective service system (if required); makes such students eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at a four-year public college or university if the student has first completed 60 credit hours or graduated from a community college in Maryland; provides that students qualifying for in-state tuition rates by this method will not be counted as in-state students for purposes of counting undergraduate enrollment; and extends the time in which honorably discharged veterans may qualify for in-state tuition rates.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The General Assembly passed the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act during the 2011 legislative session. Governor O'Malley signed Senate Bill 167 on May 10, providing in-state tuition rates to immigrant individuals with and without documents and to selected military personnel. In July 2011, opponents of the law, using online petition forms, collected the number of petition signatures required to place the new law on the 2012 general election ballot as a referendum, thus delaying its implementation. Casa de Maryland, an Hispanic advocacy group, argued that the legislation is an appropriations bill and not subject to referendum. In June 2012, the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that the issue could be petitioned to referendum.

Present Practice: Students who reside in Maryland and are not permanent residents of the United States are required to pay out-of-state tuition at Maryland community colleges and at four-year institutions of higher education. At the University of Maryland, annual tuition and fees for an in-state student are \$8,655 while an out-of-state student pays \$26,026. Currently, several community colleges already are offering in-state tuition rates to immigrants without papers. Tuition rates are established by **State regulations and the institution's governing board of trustees.**

After the DREAM Act of 2010 was blocked in Congress, on June 15, 2012, President Obama announced a **directive from the Department of Homeland Security entitled "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA)** that would allow nearly 1.7 million young students without documentation to avoid deportation and to seek authorization to work in the United States. This "deferred action" will last for two years and can be renewed. The application fee is \$465.

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Proposed Changes: In order to qualify to pay in-state tuition, the individual must meet the following requirements.

- **The student must have attended a Maryland high school for at least three years and have graduated from high school or obtained a general education degree (GED).**
- **Parents or legal guardians of these immigrant students must have filed Maryland tax returns for the past three years.**
- **The student must enroll at a community college in the county where the student attended high school within four years of graduation. Tuition would be at in-county rates.**
- **The student must obtain an associate degree or complete 60 credits before transferring to a public four-year institution within four years of completion of this requirement.**
- **The immigrant student or his/her parents or guardians must file Maryland tax returns during high-school years, after high-school graduation, and while the student is in attendance at a community college or institution of higher education.**
- **If the individual is not a permanent resident, the student must agree to apply for permanent residency within 30 days of becoming eligible.**
- **These individuals may not be counted as in-state students at these educational institutions. However, these institutions must keep a record of those who pay in-state tuition under this law, and a commission must report to the General Assembly annually.**
- **When required, individuals must register with the Selective Service System.**
- **The in-state tuition provision also applies to active duty-personnel stationed in the State, resident in the State or domiciled in the State, as well as to selected members of the National Guard. The provision extends the time limit for honorably discharged military personnel to four years.**
- **These provisions do not include nonimmigrant aliens (international students).**

Pros: These individuals, with or without papers, who were brought to the United States as children, have been raised in the United States, and they consider this country their home. By continuing their education past high school, they could become more productive and would be in a position to supplement the tax base at much higher levels. Those who have served in the military should be given this opportunity as well. In a February 2012 report, the Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland stated: **"It would be foolhardy...for state and local communities to withhold education and other opportunities from these future workers."**

Cons: There is no accurate count of the number of individuals who might qualify for this program. Now that these children without papers do not have to worry about being deported and can legally get jobs under the recent federal DACA, there is no reason to provide in-state tuition. While the State of Maryland is not paying for in-state tuition directly, many consider the difference to be lost revenue.

A vote FOR means: Undocumented immigrants and military personnel who meet the above criteria will be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates.

A vote AGAINST means: Undocumented immigrants and military personnel who meet the above criteria will be charged out-of-state tuition rates.

QUESTION 5

Congressional Districting Plan

Referendum Petition
(Ch. 1 of the 2011 Special Session)

Establishes the boundaries for the State's eight United States Congressional Districts based on recent census figures, as required by the United States Constitution.

Origin of this Ballot Question – Congressional District boundaries must be redrawn every 10 years after the decennial census to adjust for population changes. In a Special Session in November of 2011, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1 – Congressional Districting Plan as emergency legislation, meaning that it went into effect immediately upon passage. The plan was challenged in federal court;

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however, a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ruled that the plan was legal and constitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the district court ruling on June 25, 2012.

The Maryland Constitution allows voters to repeal legislation that was passed by the General Assembly if 3% of the registered voters of the state, calculated on the basis of the number of votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election, sign petitions to repeal the law. In the years 2011-2014, such a petition must contain at least 55,736 valid signatures. The Maryland State Board of Elections determined that sufficient signatures were submitted to place the question of whether the Senate Bill 1 should remain in effect on the November 2012 ballot.

Present Practice: During the 2012 Primary Election and General Elections, voters who reside in these **newly approved Congressional Districts (as proposed by the Governor's Redistricting Commission and approved by the General Assembly in 2011)** are voting for candidates running in those districts. Prior to 2012, Congressional Districts were based on a map adopted in 2002. To see a map of the Congressional Districts adopted in 2011, go to: <http://www.planning.maryland.gov/redistricting/2010/congDist.shtml>

To see the Congressional Districts as they were from 2002-2011 go to http://www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/Redist/congd02/cong02_md.htm

Proposed Change: If a majority of voters vote against the referred law, Senate Bill 1 will no longer be in effect, and the General Assembly will be required to enact a new Congressional Districting Bill. However, the Congressional representatives elected this November from the districts defined in Senate Bill 1 will serve the full two-year term that begins in January 2013. Because the 2010 census revealed that the population in Maryland has changed since the 2002 map was drawn, the 2002 map would no longer be valid.

Both the Maryland Constitution and statutes are silent on the matter of a process for Congressional redistricting. Congress has given state legislatures the authority to draw Congressional Districts. Federal statutes require that Congressional Districts be single-member districts, be substantially equal in population, and conform to the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and related case law. Therefore, the same process could be used to draw a new map that was used to draw the map adopted in 2011. Theoretically, a map identical to the map proposed SB 1 could be adopted again.

Pros: Voting for the referred law would ensure that the current Congressional Districts would remain, and voters would be in the same Congressional Districts for the 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020 elections as they are in for the 2012 election.

Cons: Voting to repeal SB 1 and the Congressional Districts that it defined would send the message that voters did not approve of the districts as drawn and would require the General Assembly to pass a new bill.

A vote FOR means: The 2012 Congressional Districts and all provisions of Senate Bill 1 will remain in effect.

A vote AGAINST means: The General Assembly will have to pass another bill defining Congressional Districts in time for the 2014 primary election.

QUESTION 6

Civil Marriage Protection Act

Referendum Petition

(Ch. 2 of the 2012 Legislative Session)

Establishes that Maryland's civil marriage laws allow gay and lesbian couples to obtain a civil marriage license, provided they are not otherwise prohibited from marrying; protects clergy from having to perform any particular marriage ceremony in violation of their religious beliefs; affirms that each religious faith has exclusive control over its own theological doctrine regarding who may marry within that faith; and provides that religious organizations and certain related entities are not required to provide goods, services, or benefits to an individual related to the celebration or promotion of marriage in violation of their religious beliefs.

Origin of the referred law: In the 2012 session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation passed which would allow same-gender couples to obtain a Maryland civil marriage license. This legislation was

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due to be implemented on January 1, 2013. The Maryland Constitution allows voters to repeal legislation that was passed by the General Assembly if 3% of the registered voters of the state, calculated on the basis of the number of votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election, sign petitions to repeal the law. In the years 2011-2014, a petition must contain at least 55,736 valid signatures. The Maryland State Board of Elections determined that sufficient signatures were submitted to place the question of whether the Civil Marriage Protection Act should remain in effect on the November 2012 ballot.

Present Practice: Maryland law states that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in Maryland. The Maryland Constitution does not define a valid marriage. In February of 2010, Attorney General Gansler issued an opinion that stated that a same-sex marriage that is valid in the jurisdiction in which it was contracted may be recognized in Maryland under state law. More than 300 Maryland laws provide for benefits conditioned on marital status. They include laws on taxation, business regulation, secured commercial transactions, education, estates and trusts, family law, decision-making regarding spousal health care, insurance, labor and employment, child care and child rearing, pensions, and the responsibilities attendant to spousal funeral arrangements.

Proposed Change: With a valid Maryland marriage license, same-gender couples may have marriages performed in Maryland recognized under Maryland law beginning January 1, 2013. Religious entities retain exclusive control over their own theological doctrines, policy teachings, and beliefs regarding who may marry within that faith. No official of a religious order or body authorized to perform a marriage ceremony will be required to celebrate or officiate any particular marriage or religious rite of marriage in violation of the right to free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the U.S. and Maryland constitutions, and will not be subject to any fines or other penalties for the failure or refusal to do so. Further, no religious entity will be required to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or **privileges if they are related to the celebration of a marriage that violates the entity's religious beliefs.** The Act does not affect existing laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.

Pros: Support for same-gender marriage means supporting equal rights for all Marylanders without discrimination on the basis of age, race, nationality, religion, gender, physical condition or sexual orientation. Marriage benefits, such as joint ownership and medical decision-making capability, would be available to all couples. Religious freedom is protected. No religious institution is required to be involved in same-gender marriage ceremonies.

Cons: The definition of marriage has traditionally been defined as between a man and a woman. Marriage legally protects the formation of a family. The institution of marriage can only belong to the union of one man and one woman because nature has given this relationship the unique capacity to bring children into the world. While not all married couples bear children, the biological union of a heterosexual couple is a necessary condition for children to be conceived. Some believe that if marriage ceases to have its historical meaning and understanding, over time fewer and fewer people will marry, and we may have an increase in children born out of wedlock.

A vote FOR means: Same-gender couples will be allowed to marry in Maryland beginning on January 1, 2013.

A vote AGAINST means: Same-gender couples will not be allowed to marry in Maryland.

QUESTION 7

Gaming Expansion Referendum

(Ch. 1 of the Second 2012 Special Session)

Do you favor the expansion of commercial gaming in the State of Maryland for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education to authorize video lottery operation licensees to **operate "table games" as defined by law; to increase from 15,000 to 16,500 the maximum number of video lottery terminals that may be operated in the State; and to increase from 5 to 6 the maximum number of video lottery operation licenses that may be awarded in the State and allow a video lottery facility to operate in Prince George's County?**

Origin of this Ballot Question: Article XIX of the Maryland Constitution, approved by the voters at the November 2008 general election, authorized a maximum of five video lottery facility licenses at specified locations: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Cecil and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City. Facilities are not yet

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operating in all authorized locations. Because the number of locations is specified in the Maryland Constitution, voters must approve any increase in the number of licenses granted in Maryland.

During the August 2012 Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation passed that allows those operators already authorized to provide video lottery terminals (slots) to also operate table games, such as blackjack, roulette, etc. This legislation also authorizes an increase in the maximum number of video lottery terminals in Maryland. In addition, the legislation permits an increase from 5 to 6 new licenses, which can be granted to operate video lottery terminals and also increases the proceeds from these licenses going to the operators.

Prior to passage of Article XIX, only Constitutional Amendments or legislation passed by the General Assembly but petitioned to referenda could appear on ballots to be approved by voters state-wide. Article XIX, approved by voters in 2008, created the provision of voter approval for the purpose of expanding gambling beyond the original scope.

Present Practice: Five licenses to operate slot machines have already been awarded in Maryland based on voter approval of a referendum on gambling in 2008. Licenses have been awarded to operators in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Allegany and Worcester Counties and the City of Baltimore. These licensees are allowed to operate video lottery terminals only.

Proposed Change: Allows additional video display terminals (slots) in Maryland, allows table games in those locations already authorized to operate video display terminals, and increases by one the number **of locations where gaming is allowed. This additional site is expected to be in Prince George's County.** The legislation must be passed by a majority of the statewide voters. In addition, Chapter 1 states the intent of the General Assembly is that a video lottery operation license may not be awarded in Prince **George's County unless this referendum is approved by a majority of the voters in Prince George's** County who vote on the question.

However, the final decision about where to locate the 6th license is left up to the commission charged with locating gaming sites. The original constitutional amendment on gaming that was passed in 2008 also states that gaming facilities must be placed in accordance with local zoning regulations. If passed, **this referendum would also allow video lottery ticket sales at veterans' organizations and allow operators** of any gaming site to own more than one facility. In addition, gaming facilities will be allowed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The bill also increases the amount of the proceeds from gambling that will go to the venue licensees and **also expands the permitted use of the state's share to include early childhood education.**

Pros: **Proponents project that over \$200 million will be generated for Maryland's public schools when all** six gaming sites are in full operation in 2016, including public school construction, public school capital improvements, and capital projects at community colleges and at public higher education institutions. **An estimated 2,300 permanent Maryland jobs will be added. Maryland's gaming facilities will be competitive with those of surrounding states. Establishing a gaming site in Prince George's County at National Harbor will draw customers from D.C. and Virginia, adding out-of-state dollars to Maryland's coffers.**

Cons: Of the \$144.3 million from gambling revenue generated to date from the sites where gambling has been in operation, spending for public schools has not been increased. Instead, funds from gambling replaced general fund revenue that would have been required for education purposes if the gambling revenue had not existed. In addition, revenues have fallen far short of the prediction of \$565 million by 2013 that was made by the Department of Legislative Services in 2008.

Many of the jobs to be created will not appear for several years and when they do, they will go to union workers. Since there are an insufficient number of Maryland construction workers in unions, most of these jobs will go to non-residents.

In May 2012, the legislature passed tax increases on every Marylander who makes over \$100,000. In the August 2012 legislative session, they lowered the gambling tax on every casino by an amount ranging from 16 to 33 percent.

A vote FOR means: Allowing an increase in the types of gambling in Maryland (adding table games), an additional authorized location, a change in the distribution of gambling proceeds and an increase in the hours that gambling facilities can operate.

A vote AGAINST means: The constitutional limitations regarding gambling in Maryland that were authorized in Article XIX and passed by voters in 2008 will remain unchanged.

Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments

QUESTION A

Time for Submission of County Budget

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to require the County Executive to submit the county budget to the County Council at least 60 days prior to the end of the fiscal year and to require the County Council to adopt the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance by the fifteenth day of the last month of the fiscal year.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This change was proposed by the County Budget Officer for consideration by the Charter Revision Commission, and adopted by Council (Resolution 54-12).

Present Practice: In 2010, voters approved a Charter amendment requiring that the County Executive submit the proposed County budget to County Council by April 15, and that Council adopt the budget by June 1, providing 45 days for review and adoption. Prior to the 2010 amendment, Council received the **County Executive's proposed budget on May 1, and had 30 days for budget review and adoption.**

Because Council is required to pass an ordinance in order to adopt the budget, the budget must be adopted on a legislative session-day. By State mandate, Council may meet no more than 45 days each year in legislative session. The Charter provides for Council to meet for an Annual Legislative Session, beginning May 1 and ending by June 1. In addition, Council is required to meet for two Monthly Legislative Session-days, the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, except November in a councilmanic election year.

In the original Charter, Council's budget review and adoption period coincided with its Annual Legislative Session dates (May 1-31). The 2010 amendment provided Council with 15 days prior to the start of the Annual Legislative Session to read the budget books and formulate questions.

Proposed Change: The amendment preserves the 45-day budgetary review period that was **established in the 2010 amendment, but returns the County Executive's deadline for introducing the budget to May 1, and requires that Council adopt the budget ordinance by June 15.**

Pros: The County budget can be prepared more accurately in late April, with knowledge of the Maryland state budget, which the General Assembly adopts in early April, and with the results of labor negotiations that take place during April. This saves the County time and resources, because public notice and a public hearing are required for additions to the proposed budget after it has been introduced to Council. The present-day County budget is lengthy and complex, and it is advantageous to provide Council adequate time for in-depth study.

Cons: The 2010 amendment has only been in effect for two years, insufficient time to determine whether the April 15 deadline results in an unwieldy number of budget amendments. The proposed **change sets Council's budget adoption deadline after the conclusion of its Annual Legislative Session, and necessitates that the budget be adopted at one of the Monthly Legislative Session-days in June.**

A vote FOR: Requires the County Executive to submit the budget by May 1, and County Council to adopt the budget by June 15.

A vote AGAINST: **Keeps the County Executive's budget introduction deadline as April 15, and Council's latest adoption date as June 1.**

QUESTION B

County Executive – Removal from Office

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to provide for the removal of the County Executive by a vote of not less than five members of the County Council for failure to qualify under the Charter, for conviction of certain crimes and for failure to perform the duties of office for 180 days and providing for the forfeiture of post-employment County benefits if removed for conviction of certain crimes.

Origin of the Ballot Question: Recommended by the County Council after study by the Charter Revision Commission (Resolution 32-12).

Present Practice: The causes for removal of the County Executive stated in the current Charter are (1) conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; (2) conviction of misfeasance or malfeasance in

Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments

office, and/or (3) failure to perform the duties of the office for 180 consecutive days. Removal requires an affirmative vote of five members of the County Council. The present Charter doesn't include failure to qualify or a felony conviction as a basis for removal, and doesn't allow the possibility of denying post-employment benefits to a County Executive removed for a criminal conviction.

Proposed Change: This amendment to Section 404 of the County Charter adds a felony conviction to the crimes of moral turpitude, misfeasance or malfeasance in office for which the County Executive may be removed from office by a vote of five County Council members. It adds a provision for removal if the County Executive fails to meet the age, residency and voter qualifications of the position. It gives Council the authority to establish conditions for both withdrawing and reinstating post-employment benefits for a removed County Executive.

Pros: More comprehensive and specific provisions make removal less subject to confusion, controversy and delay. The County won't have to pay retiree benefits to a County Executive that was removed for a criminal conviction.

Cons: Amendment does not provide for reinstatement to the position of County Executive, if conviction is reversed upon appeal.

A vote FOR: Expands the Charter provisions for removing the County Executive from office. Reasons will include a felony conviction or failure to meet the qualification requirements of the position, in addition to conviction of a crime of moral turpitude, conviction of malfeasance or misfeasance in office, and/or failure to perform the duties of office for 180 consecutive days. It also allows Council to deny retiree benefits to a removed County Executive.

A vote AGAINST: Means that the County Council may remove the County Executive from office only for conviction of a crime of moral turpitude, conviction of malfeasance or misfeasance in office, and/or failure to perform the duties of office for 180 consecutive days. It precludes Council from denying a removed County Executive retiree benefits.

QUESTION C

County Council - Removal from Office

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to provide for the removal of a member of County Council by a vote of not less than five members of the County Council, for failure to qualify under the Charter, for conviction of certain crimes, or for failure to perform duties for 180 consecutive days and providing for the forfeiture of post-employment County benefits if removed for certain crimes.

Origin of the Ballot Question: There is no provision in the County Charter for removal of a County Council member from office. After voting this year to remove a council member based on State law, Council asked the Charter Revision Commission to recommend such a provision as an amendment to the Charter. Council adopted their recommendation (Resolution 33-12).

Present Practice: There is no provision for removal of a County Council member, so State law was relied on.

Proposed Change: The amendment provides for removal of a County Council member, by affirmative vote of five Council members, for failure to meet the qualification requirements of the position, for conviction of a felony, crime involving moral turpitude, or misfeasance or malfeasance in office, and/or for failing to perform the duties of the office for 180 consecutive days. The amendment allows the County Council to deny the removed council member post-employment benefits earned as a County Council member.

Pros: This establishes a concrete provision in the Charter to avoid uncertainty and possible lawsuits. The County won't have to pay post-employment benefits to a council member who has been removed for conviction of certain crimes.

Cons: This provision does not provide for restoration of a council member to the Council if conviction is reversed upon appeal.

Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments

A vote FOR: Adds provisions where none currently exist in the Charter to allow County Council to remove a council member from office, and to deny the removed council member post-employment benefits.

A vote AGAINST: Leaves the Charter as it currently stands with no provision to remove a County Council member and with no provision for possible denial of retiree benefits to a council member removed for certain crimes.

QUESTION D

County Council Vacancy - Failure to Appoint

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to require that if the County Council fails to fill a vacancy on the Council within 30 days of the vacancy, the County Executive shall appoint an applicant, either selected by the party Central Committee, or for an applicant not affiliated with a Central Committee, from a list provided by the County Council, as the new councilmember.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The Charter requires Council to fill a vacant Council position within 30 days of its vacancy by majority vote of the remaining Council members. Recently, there has been delay beyond the Charter deadline. Council asked the Charter Revision Commission to consider ways to improve the process to avoid impasse. Of the suggestions from the Commission, the Council chose this proposal (Resolution 45-12).

Present Practice: The County Charter states that, if a vacancy occurs in the County Council after the departed Council member has served the first 12 months of the term, the vacancy shall be permanently filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the County Council within 30 days after the vacancy occurs. The vacancy must be filled by a resident of the departed Councilman's district who is registered in the same political party as the departed Council member. Because a majority of the six remaining Council members must agree on an applicant, multiple ballots and deadlock have occurred, resulting in the vacancy continuing beyond the 30 days prescribed in the Charter.

Proposed Change: If a majority of the County Council can't agree on a candidate to fill the vacancy within 30 days, the Central Committee of the party of the departed Council member will have 10 days to select an appointee from County Council's last ballot of applicants. The appointee must be of the same political party as the departed Council member. Provided the applicant received at least one vote from the County Council on the last ballot roll call, he or she will be immediately appointed by the County Executive to fill the vacancy. If the departed Council member was not from a party with a Central Committee in the County, the County Executive will have five days to appoint a new Council member from Council's last ballot of applicants.

Pros: This amendment would result in the timely filling of a vacancy on the Council, facilitating legislation and providing representation of the district of the departed councilmember.

Cons: This method of filling the vacancy takes the decision out of the hands of County citizens and their elected representatives, and gives the political parties a large role.

A vote FOR: Establishes a provision for filling a vacancy on County Council in the event that Council fails to approve an applicant by majority vote within 30 days of the vacancy, allowing the political party of the departed council member, or the County Executive, to select the appointee.

A vote AGAINST: Maintains the Charter provision requiring a majority vote of County Council to fill a Council vacancy within 30 days, with no contingency provision in the event that Council fails to agree on an applicant.

QUESTION E

Retiree Health Benefit Reserve Fund

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to require the County to establish a fund for the payment of any County retiree health benefits as shall be approved by ordinance of the County Council and to allow the County Council to establish that fund as a trust fund to be called the Retiree Health Benefits Trust.

Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments

Origin of the Ballot Question: This recommendation grew out of a joint commission comprised of representatives of the union, administration and Council. The purpose is to create a functional lock box for funds designated for County retiree health care benefits. (Resolution 34-12)

Present Practice: There is no separate stand-alone fund into which appropriations for County retiree health benefits are placed.

Proposed Change: This will establish a segregated fund into which monies designated for County retiree health care benefits will be placed, to insure they are not used for other purposes. Subsequently, a trust with outside trustees will be established to oversee the monies. This amendment only establishes the lock box, trust mechanism. No money is being appropriated with this change.

Pros: This change would insure that funds for County retiree health care liabilities are not used for other purposes.

Cons: Without this provision, Council can use monies appropriated for County retiree health care benefits for other purposes until needed. The County may incur auditing and other expenses for the new trust fund.

A vote FOR: Means funds designated for County retiree health benefits will be placed in a segregated fund and subsequently in a trust with outside trustees.

A vote AGAINST: Means funds approved for County retiree health benefits will not be segregated, and **will remain in the County's general fund.**

QUESTION F

Line Item Veto - Comprehensive Zoning Ordinances Only

To amend the County Charter to limit the County Executive's line item veto authority to comprehensive zoning ordinances only.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The County Council requested that the Charter Revision Commission consider whether the County Executive's line item veto authority should be rescinded. The Commission's recommendation to limit the line item veto power to comprehensive zoning ordinances was adopted by Council (Resolution 47-12).

Present Practice: With the exception of budget and appropriation ordinances, the County Executive is permitted to veto parts of an ordinance that has been passed by majority Council vote, while the rest of the ordinance becomes law. His vetoes may be overturned by five votes of the County Council.

Proposed Change: The County Executive will only have line item veto authority on comprehensive zoning ordinances. All other bills presented by Council must be adopted or vetoed in their entirety.

Pros: The County is required to enact comprehensive zoning ordinances periodically, and they are necessarily lengthy, detailed pieces of legislation. Allowing the County Executive to veto individual segments, keeps the County from having to reintroduce a very large bill to Council, and expedites enactment of the majority of the zoning ordinance. Eliminating the County Executive's line item veto power on other types of ordinances serves to preserve Council's intent, and may help speed the legislative process in the County.

Cons: The broader line item veto power granted to the County Executive in the current Charter may protect the County from divisive action and poor judgment by County Council. Vetoes may be overridden with 5 votes of Council.

A vote FOR: Limits the line item veto authority of the County Executive to comprehensive zoning ordinances only.

A vote AGAINST: **Preserves the County Executive's authority to veto one or more parts of an ordinance (except budget and appropriation ordinances).**

Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments

QUESTION G

County Council – Term of Office

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to change the commencement of a term for a County Councilmember to the first Monday in December to coincide with the date when the councilman is qualified.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The County Council's Attorney recognized a possible ambiguity in the Charter with respect to the date on which a member of County Council takes office. Section 203 currently specifies that a member of the County Council shall hold office for a term of four years

"commencing at the time of election and continuing until a successor shall qualify. The member shall qualify on the first Monday in December following election..."

The language could be interpreted as permitting a member to take office upon election rather than upon taking the oath of office on the first Monday in December. County Council proposed this amendment to clarify the Charter (Resolution 48-12).

Present Practice: Members qualify by taking the oath of office on the first Monday in December and assume office then.

Proposed Change: This is a technical amendment to eliminate a possible ambiguity in the Charter provision. No change from current practice is proposed.

Pros: A possible ambiguity will be removed from the Charter.

Cons: None

A vote FOR: **Means the Charter provision regarding County Council's term of office will be clarified, and a possible ambiguity removed.**

A vote AGAINST: **Means a possible ambiguity regarding County Council's term of office will remain in the Charter.**

QUESTION H

Legislative Session Days

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to provide for an August legislative recess, with the option of an August legislative session by a majority vote of the County Council.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The County Council asked the Charter Revision Commission to consider certain issues. One issue was the number of required legislative sessions to allow for an annual recess of the County Council in August. After surveying charter counties the commission found that a number of County Councils recess during the month of August, either in practice or as outlined specifically in their charters. The Charter Commission recommended the addition of language to permit a recess of the County Council at a time specified in the Charter (Resolution 40-12).

Present Practice: The County Council is currently required to convene on the first and third Mondays of each month (except November in a councilmanic election year), for the purpose of enacting legislation. Council may be called into emergency legislative session at any time during the year, and may conduct meetings for purposes other than enacting legislation at its discretion.

Proposed Change: The change would permit the County Council to recess for the month of August, with the option of scheduling a legislative session in August pursuant to a resolution approved by a majority of the Council. Emergency sessions may still be called in any month, as prescribed in the Charter.

Pros: An August recess is common practice among charter counties, and allows Council flexibility.

Cons: This change reduces the number of regularly scheduled sessions annually at which Council meets to hear public testimony and enact legislation. The recess could be perceived as a salary bonus.

A vote FOR: Means County Council will recess for the month of August, unless a majority of the members vote to convene for a legislative session, or unless an emergency legislative session is called.

A vote AGAINST: Means County Council will be required to convene for legislative sessions the 1st and 3rd Monday in August.

Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments

QUESTION I

Annual Audit

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to require an annual audit of all County offices, departments and agencies, by an independent firm of certified public accountants and to allow the County Council to except from this requirement those special taxing districts which as otherwise required by State or County law to have periodic independent audits.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This was one of several provisions that County Council asked the Charter Revision Commission to study. With the Commission's input, Council proposed this amendment (Resolution 38-12).

Present Practice: The Charter calls for a quadrennial financial audit of all county agencies, conducted by an independent firm of certified public accountants. In actual practice, the county is required to have an independent firm of certified public accountants perform financial audits of all county agencies every year, to substantiate its bond rating. Consequently, the county no longer performs four-year audits.

Proposed Change: The amendment updates the Charter to reflect current practice, by changing the **county's external audit requirement from every four years to every year to be consistent with bond rating** agency requirements. It also contains a provision allowing Council to waive this requirement for those special taxing districts that already have an obligation to conduct independent periodic audits.

Pros: Eliminates an anachronism from the Charter, codifies sound fiscal practices and removes the need for duplicative audits of special taxing districts.

Cons: Keeping the quadrennial audit would provide a means for evaluating the overall fiscal performance of a Council that had just completed its four-year term.

A vote FOR: **Requires an audit of the County's financial statements every year by an independent CPA**, excluding those special taxing districts that have periodic independent audits under State or County law.

A vote AGAINST: Retains the Charter requirement of a four-**year audit of the County's financial** statements by an independent CPA, to be performed at the beginning of the term of office of a new County Council and County Executive. No exception may be made for special taxing districts that already have periodic independent audits performed under State or County law.

QUESTION J

Use of Bond Premiums

To amend the County Charter to require that bond premiums generated from the issuance of County bonds be used only for the funding of capital improvements financed by the bonds.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This amendment was proposed by the County Budget Officer for consideration by the Charter Revision Commission, and adopted by County Council (Resolution 50-12).

Present Practice: Currently, Council determines the items that bond premiums are used to fund, in compliance with IRS rules, which allow premiums to be applied to bond interest expense and cost of issuance, as well as to capital improvement projects. During the past three fiscal years, approximately **half of the county's bond premiums have been used for interest expense and cost of issuance.**

Proposed Change: The amendment requires that bond premiums be used solely to fund capital improvements financed by the bonds. Other revenue sources must be used to pay bond interest expense and cost of issuance.

Pros: The County may be able to issue fewer bonds, if premiums are applied entirely to fund capital improvements. Premiums are one-time earnings, recognized at the time the bonds are issued; when they are used to pay interest during the initial years of the bond, Council has to find another revenue source to fund interest payments after the premiums are used up.

Cons: Since the County makes a decision to pay higher than market interest rates in order to realize a **bond premium, there's a rationale for using the premium to pay interest.** The restriction on County use of bond premiums may complicate premium allocation and debt service sharing on bonds that the County issues for AACPS and AACC capital projects.

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A vote FOR: Adds a requirement that bond premiums shall be used only for the capital improvements financed by the bonds.

A vote AGAINST: **Leaves bond premiums as revenue to be appropriated as part of the County's general fund**, allowing them to be appropriated for purposes permitted by federal law, including interest expense.

QUESTION K

Charter Revision Commission Membership

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to provide that the membership of the Charter Revision Commission be comprised of a number of citizens that is equal to the number of councilmanic districts in the County, and that each member of the County Council shall make one appointment to the Charter Revision Commission.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The Charter Revision Commission, meeting in 2011-2012, received input from the public that the membership of the every ten year Charter Revision Commission should be equally spread around the County to be more representative, and recommended that there be one member from each council district. The County Council adopted this recommendation without specifying that the members each come from a different district, but simply that each member of County Council appoint one individual to serve on the Charter Revision Commission (Resolution 35-12).

Present Practice: The Charter specifies that the County Council shall appoint five representative citizens of the County to serve on the decennial Charter Revision Commission. There are currently seven councilmanic districts in the County. The next Charter Revision Commission will be appointed in 2021.

Proposed Change: This amendment will increase the number of Commissioners to equal the number of councilmanic districts, and will require each County Council member to appoint one person to serve on the Charter Revision Commission. The appointed Commissioner must be a representative citizen of the County, but does not need to be a resident of the appointing Council member's district.

Pros: This amendment may allow the Commission to benefit from wider representation of the citizens of the County.

Cons: **The larger number of Commissioners makes consensus on changes more difficult and doesn't** guarantee representation from each district. It may be difficult to find enough citizens who are willing and able to serve, especially if more councilmanic districts are created in the future.

A vote FOR: Increases the number of citizens serving on the Charter Revision Commission, equal to the number of councilmanic districts, and requires each Council member to appoint one Commissioner.

A vote AGAINST: Means the Charter Revision Commission will continue to have five members, appointed by County Council.

QUESTION L

Board of Appeals – Term Limits

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to provide that a person is not eligible for appointment to the County Board of Appeals for a third consecutive term if he has served two consecutive terms as of or after the term commencing January 4, 2011.

Origin of the ballot question: The County Council asked the Charter Revision Commission to examine the need for term limits for Board of Appeals members. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that, beginning in January 2015, a three consecutive term limit be imposed and that terms be staggered to ensure some continuity of knowledge and accountability on the Board. Council deliberated and decided to impose a two consecutive term limit, without staggering the terms (Resolution 36-12).

Present Practice: The Board of Appeals consists of seven qualified County voters, appointed by County Council, whose four-year term of office is coterminous with that of the Council. There are no term limitations applicable to members of the Board of Appeals in the current Charter.

Proposed Change: Members of the Board of Appeals will be limited to serving two consecutive four-year terms beginning January 4, 2011. The Board's term of office will continue to be coterminous with

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that of Council, with no staggering of members' terms.

Pros: Term limits help prevent the Board of Appeals from establishing a fixed point of view. Other bodies such as the County Council do well with term limits. The amendment allows the possibility of appointing a former Board member to a subsequent non-consecutive term.

Cons: Term limits may hinder members from developing expertise in subject matters before the Board. Long-serving members provide an institutional memory.

A vote FOR: Means members of the Board of Appeals who have served two or more consecutive terms as of or after the term beginning January 4, 2011 will not be eligible for appointment to a third consecutive term.

A vote AGAINST: Means members of the Board of Appeals will continue to be eligible to serve an unlimited number of terms.

QUESTION M

County Ethics Commission – Term Limits

To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to limit the number of terms for the members of the County Ethics Commission to two consecutive terms.

Origin of the ballot question: A Council member asked the Charter Revision Commission to look at the issue of term limits for members of the Ethics Commission. The proposed term limits would be consistent with Charter restrictions regarding the County Executive and County Council (Resolution 49-12).

Present Practice: Seven County residents are appointed by the County Executive, with County Council's approval, to serve staggered four-year terms on the County Ethics Commission. There are numerous eligibility requirements but no term limitations for members of the Ethics Commission in the current Charter.

Proposed Change: This amendment states that no member of the Ethics Commission may serve more than two consecutive terms.

Pros: Term limits may bring new points of view to the Ethics Commission. Because members' terms are staggered, the Commission does not lose continuity and institutional memory.

Cons: Term limits may prevent members from developing expertise in subject matter considered by Commission. The amendment provides no flexibility with respect to a member potentially returning to the Commission to serve a third non-consecutive term.

A vote FOR: Means members of the Ethics Commission will be limited to serving two four-year terms.

A vote AGAINST: Means members of the Ethics Commission may be appointed to serve an unlimited number of terms.

QUESTION N

Return of Bills

To amend the County Charter to clarify that a bill passed by the County Council but returned unsigned by the County Executive without a statement of approval or disapproval becomes law on the tenth day after presentation.

Origin of the Ballot Question: A similar amendment appeared on the 2008 ballot, and was rejected. The Charter Revision Commission recommended to the Council that the amendment be reworded to clarify its purpose, for reconsideration by county voters this year (Resolution 39-12).

Present Practice: The Charter states that an ordinance becomes law if the County Executive fails to act on it within ten days of its presentation, but it is unspecific as to the effective date of the law.

Proposed Change: The amendment clarifies the Charter, by specifying that a law that results from the **County Executive's failure to act on an ordinance that has been presented by Council, takes effect on the tenth day after presentation.**

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Pros: By adding specificity to the Charter, the amendment allows laws to take effect promptly and with less likelihood of challenge.

Cons: None.

A vote FOR: Establishes that a bill becomes law on the tenth day after presentation to the County Executive, unless the County Executive approves or vetoes it prior to that date.

A vote AGAINST: Retains the current non-specific Charter provision regarding the effective date of a law enacted as a result of the County Executive's failure to act.

QUESTION O

Budget Procedures – Definition of Copy

To amend the County Charter to include a definition of the term "copy or copies" to include paper, electronic or digital copies with respect to budgetary and fiscal procedures.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This amendment was proposed by the County Budget Officer for consideration by the Charter Revision Commission, and adopted by Council (Resolution 55-12).

Present Practice: The Charter makes specific provisions regarding dissemination of the proposed and adopted budgets, requiring that copies be delivered to each Council member, county agency, newspaper of general circulation and county library, as well as allowing for a number of copies for public use. The Charter does not currently define the term "copy or copies."

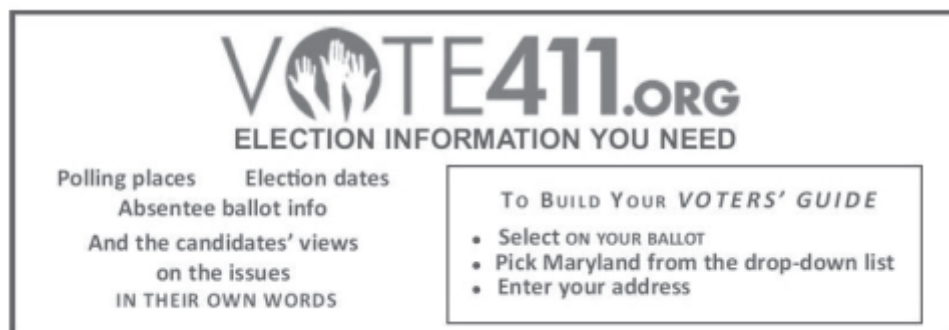
Proposed Change: This amendment will eliminate uncertainty regarding the meaning of the term "copy or copies," permitting the county to use digital and electronic copies, as well as paper, to distribute the proposed and final budget.

Pros: Digital and electronic copies allow for wider dissemination of the budget at less cost to the county.

Cons: Some residents, particularly the elderly, may not be comfortable using digital or electronic media. Other uses of the term "copy or copies" in the Charter, such as the requirement to distribute copies of the annual financial audit in Article III, are not specifically addressed by this amendment.

A vote FOR: Permits copies of a budgetary and fiscal nature required under Article VII of the Charter to be reproduced digitally, electronically or on paper.

A vote AGAINST: Leaves the term "copy or copies" undefined for purposes prescribed in Article VII.



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RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PREFERRED CONTACT: ☐ PHONE ☐ EMAIL ☐ MAIL

MEMBERSHIP (Make Check Payable to LWV Anne Arundel County) AMOUNT

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ HOUSEHOLD _____

Tax Deductible DONATION to Education Fund

Make Second Check Payable to Maryland Voters Education Fund
(MVEF), write notation on memo line, LWV Anne Arundel Co. _____

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1130 Shore Drive
Edgewater, MD 21037

Candidates on Anne Arundel County 2012 General Election Ballot

Party Abbreviations:

Dem = Democratic

Rep = Republican

Lib = Libertarian

Grn = Green

Con= Constitution

Ind= Independent

AE = Americans Elect

Una = Unaffiliated Candidate

US President and Vice President

Vote for no more than 1 pair

☐ Barack Obama and Joe Biden (Dem)

☐ Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan (Rep)

☐ Gary Johnson (Lib)

☐ Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala (Grn)

Write-in Candidates (as of 9/18/12)

☐ Tiffany Renee Briscoe James Orlando Ogle (Dem)

☐ Dennis Knill (Dem)

☐ Matthew Lydick (Rep)

☐ Barbara A. Prokopich (Rep)

☐ Santa Claus (Ind)

☐ Richard Duncan (Ind)

☐ James Clymer (Con)

☐ Virgil Goode (Con)

☐ Ross C. Anderson Luis J. Rodriguez (Other)

☐ Merlin Miller Harry V. Bertram (Other)

☐ Michael David Boyles (Una)

☐ Theodis (Ted) Brown Sr. (Una)

☐ Paul Chehade Steve McAllister (Una)

☐ David M. Crosby (Una)

☐ Fred Donald Dickson Jr (Una)

☐ Robert William Dietz (Una)

☐ Nelson Keyton (Una)

☐ Cecil James Roth (Una)

US Senator

Vote for no more than 1

☐ Ben Cardin (Dem)

☐ Daniel John Bongino (Rep)

☐ Dean Ahmad (Lib)

☐ S. Rob Sobhani (Una)

Write-in Candidates

☐ Lih Young (Write-In) (Dem)

☐ Brandy Baker (Write-In) (Una)

☐ Ed Tinus (Write-In) (Una)

US Representative 02

Vote for no more than 1

☐ C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger (Dem)

☐ Nancy C. Jacobs (Rep)

☐ Leo Wayne Dymowski (Lib)

Write-in

☐ Ray Bly (Write-In) (Rep)

US Representative 03

Vote for no more than 1

☐ John Sarbanes (Dem)

☐ Eric Delano Knowles (Rep)

☐ Paul W. Drgos Jr. (Lib)

US Representative 04

Vote for no more than 1

☐ Donna F. Edwards (Dem)

☐ Faith M. Loudon (Rep)

☐ Scott Soffen (Lib)

US Representative 05

Vote for no more than 1

☐ Steny H. Hoyer (Dem)

☐ Tony O'Donnell (Rep)

☐ Arvin Vohra (Lib)

☐ Bob Auerbach (Grn)

Court of Special Appeals At Large

Stuart R. Berger

Vote yes or no for continuance in office

☐ Yes

☐ No

Circuit Court Judge - Anne Arundel

Vote for no more than 1

☐ Pamela L. North

☐ Write-in

Anne Arundel Board of Education -

At Large

Patricia Ray Nalley

Vote yes or no for continuance in office

☐ Yes

☐ No

Anne Arundel Board of Education -

District 21

Stacy Leigh Korbela

Vote yes or no for continuance in office

☐ Yes

☐ No

Anne Arundel Board of Education -

District 33

Amalie Elizabeth Brandenburg

Vote yes or no for continuance in office

☐ Yes

☐ No

Questions on Anne Arundel County 2012 General Election Ballot

Maryland Statewide

Q1: Qualifications for Prince George's Orphans'
Court Judges

☐ For the Constitutional Amendment
☐ Against the Constitutional Amendment

Q2: Qualifications for Baltimore County Orphans'
Court Judges

☐ For the Constitutional Amendment
☐ Against the Constitutional Amendment

Q3: Suspension and Removal of Elected Officials

☐ For the Constitutional Amendment
☐ Against the Constitutional Amendment

Q4: Public Institutions of Higher Education –
Tuition Rates

☐ For the Referred Law
☐ Against the Referred Law

Q5: Congressional Districting Plan

☐ For the Referred Law
☐ Against the Referred Law

Q6: Civil Marriage Protection Act

☐ For the Referred Law
☐ Against the Referred Law

Q7: Gaming Expansion

☐ For Expansion of Commercial Gaming
☐ Against the Expansion of Commercial Gaming

County Charter Amendments

A: Time for Submission of County Budget

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

B: County Executive – Removal from Office

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

C: County Council - Removal from Office

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

D: County Council Vacancy - Failure to Appoint

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

E: Retiree Health Benefit Reserve Fund

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

F: Line Item Veto - Comprehensive Zoning
Ordinances Only

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

G: County Council – Term of Office

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

H: Legislative Session Days

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

I: Annual Audit

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

J: Use of Bond Premiums

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

K: Charter Revision Commission Membership

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

L: Board of Appeals – Term Limits

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

M: County Ethics Commission – Term Limits

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

N: Return of Bills

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment

O: Budget Procedures – Definition of Copy

☐ For the Charter Amendment
☐ Against the Charter Amendment