

League of Women Voters 2018 General Election *Voters' Guide* for Talbot County

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VOTE411.org

This printed guide is just a start. Go online to **VOTE411.org**, the League's newest information resource on candidates and races.

VOTE411.org includes all the responses from all the candidates, as well as websites, Facebook pages, twitter, email, phone, and other links to find out more. Just enter your address and create your own ballot. You can also view this *Voters' Guide* there.

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore of Maryland and covers all races and their candidates appearing on the 2018 General Election ballot for Talbot County residents. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. All candidates who filed with the State Board of Elections were invited to submit information about their candidacy, including their responses to a series of questions posed for each office, to our web-based VOTE411 system. Those candidate responses appear in their own words and are included as profiles and answers in this *Guide*.

The League offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare for participation in the 2018 Gubernatorial election.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. This *Guide* is for the benefit of individual voters and should not be marked by others for organizations or individual voters. Material from the *Guide* may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission of the League of Women Voters.

The League assumes no liability for errors or omissions. The candidates' answers in the *Guide* appear as submitted. Only candidates whose names are on the 2018 primary ballot are included in this *Guide*.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose membership is open to all persons at least 16 years old. Its mission is to encourage the informed participation of voters in the democratic process. The League promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in their government.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at **www.lwv.org** and **www.VOTE411.org**.

The League thanks all candidates who submitted answers to our questions and our generous donors who made this *Guide* possible.

General Election Date is Tuesday, Nov 6, 2018

Registration Deadlines

In person: Tuesday, Oct 16, 2018 & at
Early Voting sites, Oct 25 - Nov 1
By mail: Tuesday, Oct 16, 2018
Online/email/fax: 9 pm Oct 16, 2018

Important Voting Information

There are three ways to vote this year:

- At the Early Voting locations listed below
 - At your local polling place on Nov 6,
7 am to 8 pm
 - By absentee ballot

Early Voting

**Early voting is Thursday, Oct 25, through
Thursday, Nov 1, 10:00 am until 8:00 pm**

The Early Voting location for Talbot County is

**The Easton Fire Hall
315 Aurora Park Drive
Easton, MD 21601.**

Contact your local office of the State Board of Elections for other information about registering to vote, polling locations, change of address, and any other questions you may have about the voting process.

Talbot County Board of Elections

215 Bay Street
P.O. Box 353, Easton MD 21601-0353
Jeri Cook, Election Director
410-770-8099, Fax: 410-770-8078
www.talbotcountymd.gov/index.php?page=Election_Board
Email Address: Jeri.Cook@maryland.gov

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons at least 16 years of age. As a member of one of the local Leagues of Women Voters, you will automatically be a member of the League of Women Voters of the United States and receive publications and other benefits from both the US and Maryland Leagues. Please contact your local League (listed below) to become a member.

League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore
PO Box 1724
Easton MD 21601
443-646-3338
LWVMS.MD@gmail.com
lwvmd.org/mid_shore

Like us on Facebook!

YOUR DONATION IS IMPORTANT!

Help the League of Women Voters keep government power in the hands of the people by assisting citizens to become educated, active, and engaged in public policy decisions. If you believe this is important and want us to continue to provide candidate forums and debates, *Voters' Guides*, and the website VOTE411.org, please make a tax-deductible contribution to the LWV Maryland Education Fund. We depend on your donations for our work! Make checks out to "LWVMD Education Fund," write Mid-Shore on the memo line, and send to our address above.

Thank You!

Statewide Offices

Maryland Governor / Lt Governor

GOVERNOR DUTIES: The Governor is the chief executive officer of Maryland and appoints judges to the state courts and the heads of statewide departments. The Governor also makes other appointments as provided by the Maryland Constitution or by law and proposes the annual operating and capital budgets to the legislature. The Governor may veto legislation passed by the legislature.

SALARY: \$180,000 per year.

TERM: Four years, limit of two consecutive terms.

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide as a team with the Lt. Gov.

LT. GOVERNOR DUTIES: The Lieutenant Governor assists the Governor and is elected jointly on a ballot with the gubernatorial candidate. The Lieutenant Governor fills the office of Governor in case of death, resignation, or disability and carries out specific duties assigned by the Governor.

SALARY: \$149,500 per year.

The Issues

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

BUDGET: What are your priorities for the state budget, particularly regarding education and transportation?

REDISTRICTING: What changes, if any, do you support in the process

for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

ENVIRONMENT: What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

HEALTH CARE: What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What are your priorities on issues not covered by the other questions?

Candidates

Vote for 1

**Larry Hogan / Boyd K.
Rutherford
Republican Party
Campaign Website:**

<http://www.LarryHogan.com>

No response received by deadline.

**Ben Jealous / Susan Turnbull
Democratic Party
Campaign Website:**
<http://benjealous.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I've been a partner in a business or ran large advocacy organizations since I was 26 years old. As a businessman, I've helped to grow small businesses in Maryland and across the nation. While leading the NAACP, I was named Marylander of the Year for my pivotal roles in abolishing the death penalty, passing the Maryland DREAM Act, helping pass marriage

equality, and expanding voting rights.

BUDGET: As a businessman, I'll also make sure our transportation policies also encourage economic growth and help to create good jobs. We don't have a money problem when it comes to education, we have a priority problem and we need a governor who is willing to make education a number one priority. We will fully fund our schools and make sure lottery and casino revenues supplement education funding.

REDISTRICTING: I believe that Maryland should lead the fight on redistricting reform in a fair and non-partisan manner that does not indefinitely hand control of the House of Representatives to Republicans. Redistricting compacts such as the one passed by the Maryland legislature and vetoed by Hogan are a fair solution to increase the accountability of Congress to the voters and reduce gerrymandering.

ENVIRONMENT: My vision in regards to the environment brings together the economy, civil rights, and public health. I will build on the surge of clean energy jobs and put our state on a path to 100% clean energy well before 2050 and reverse Trump's attempts to kill the progress we've made on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. Bill McKibben, Friends of the Earth Action, and 350.org have all endorsed my campaign.

DISCRIMINATION: I've dedicated my life to service and I have a long track record of securing progressive victories in our state. Growing up as the child of a biracial Maryland couple who were forced to leave the state in order to legally marry, Marylanders know I'll stand up to

Trump's hateful attacks on our environment which disproportionately harms marginalized communities and his attacks on our public schools.

HEALTH CARE: As a businessman and civil rights leader, I believe we have to stop rising healthcare premiums and drug costs from bankrupting our families, small businesses and seniors. As governor, I'll work for a Medicare For All system which will provide affordable care for all, help our small businesses grow, and provide more tools to stop pharmaceutical companies from spiking drug costs on our seniors.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Maryland's economy is ranked near the bottom for this region and our wages are flat. As a businessman, I know how to create good paying jobs and I'll ensure we get our healthcare costs under control so that families keep more money in their pockets and small businesses can grow. I'll also ensure more capital goes to entrepreneurs instead of large corporations. Learn more at www.benjealous.com.

**Shawn Quinn / Christina Smith
Libertarian Party
Campaign Website:**
<http://www.citizen4quinn.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: Shawn Quinn has lived a lifetime doing the types of jobs that real people do, not politicians. This gives him a street-level view of life that somebody only used to the "big picture" will miss. Shawn served for twenty years in the United States Navy. Shawn

Quinn worked in law enforcement for five years. He has seen firsthand what an impersonal government does to the people.

BUDGET: Shawn Quinn plans to drastically reduce the income tax within his first two years of office. These tax cuts will be paid for by reducing the role of government in areas best handled by private-public partnerships. Shawn wants to achieve cost savings in education by leveraging technology throughout. This includes everything from computers in the classroom up to entire virtual schools.

REDISTRICTING: Shawn Quinn wants to give all citizens a voice at the state and federal level. Lines shouldn't be drawn just so that the party in power can stay in power. Take the power to draw boundaries away from partisans and politicians. Draw the lines algorithmically using fixed rules. This takes human bias away from drawing boundary lines as much as possible.

ENVIRONMENT: The health of the Chesapeake Bay is the number one environmental problem facing Maryland. It is our most important resource. The entire ecology of the state flows into and from the Chesapeake Bay. Shawn plans to go after polluters directly. Individuals and businesses polluting the Chesapeake Bay or damaging the environment in any way will be held financially responsible.

DISCRIMINATION: Discrimination in any form is bad for all of us. When a person is not allowed to live to their full we all miss out of all of their possible achievements. There are already laws on the books to address discrimination. If somebody has an idea to improve an existing law or policy then Shawn will weigh

the merits of each proposal individually. Every change will be looked at for its benefit to people.

HEALTH CARE: The biggest health crisis facing Maryland and the nation is the opioid epidemic. People need help. People are scared to get help. They have seen what the government does to nonviolent drug offenders. We need to completely end the War on Drugs in Maryland. We will turn the government into a partner instead of an enforcer. We will stop ruining lives by people to prison over a chemical or a plant.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Politics in Annapolis needs a cultural change. When Shawn Quinn is Governor, there will be no special favors. When Shawn Quinn is Governor, he will make our legislature answer to the people every year. Not just every four years. Shawn Quinn will break the two-party agenda here in Maryland. Shawn cares what people think. People are more important than philosophy or politics or policy.

Ian Schlakman / Annie Chambers
Green Party
Campaign Website:
<http://schlakman.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I believe that people are no longer willing to limit their choices, They want new leadership. I am a small business owner and a community organizer. My running mate and I are people who see the need for new systems and a new vision for our economy. I envision programs that will make Maryland a national leader and I will represent Marylanders who want to live in a state that wants justice for all.

BUDGET: We'll create programs for the well-being of all Marylanders and create universal, single-payer health care for all Marylanders. We'll raise taxes on millionaires and use the new tax revenue and invest in the well-being of all Marylanders. Public school funding should be allocated according to the needs of disadvantaged students, We'll prioritize public transit over the construction of new roads.

REDISTRICTING: We support creating a non-partisan commission to draw congressional & legislative district lines. Gov. O'Malley's defense of drawing Democrat-friendly districts in 2010 is a stain on Maryland's commitment to fair elections. As a technology consultant I know how to utilize resources to solve problems. We need an open dialogue on using technology & data analysis to create fair legislative districts.

ENVIRONMENT: Our largest environmental challenge is re-prioritizing the health of our environment. The health of our communities are top priority, & we'll put an end to harmful activities by setting & enforcing limits on pollution & environmental use. We must set a goal of fueling our needs through 100% renewable sources, & then put Marylanders to work building the infrastructure we need to get the job done.

DISCRIMINATION: Our priorities of creating a universal, single-payer health system, free tuition to public colleges and universities, a basic income, and jobs guarantee are all designed to address discrimination by giving Marylanders the tools they need to be successful regardless of the privileges or lack of privilege they possess based on their race,

gender, religion, disability, or wealth.

HEALTH CARE: The most significant health challenge facing Maryland is ending our existing model of employer-based, private insurance & transitioning to a model in which health care is recognized as a human right. We will create a universal, single-payer health care system by funding adequate medical care for every resident of Maryland. We'll also fight to make sure our state produces clean & healthy energy.

OTHER PRIORITIES: From urban to rural areas we're hearing that residents are concerned that in a wealthy state like ours basic services like schools and fire departments are facing cuts. This is why we're calling for a millionaires tax to close our communities budget gaps. We will continue to post our priorities to www.schlakman.com/issues as Marylanders continue to ask us to respond to their top priorities.

Maryland Comptroller

DUTIES: The Comptroller is the financial officer of Maryland, responsible for collecting, managing and planning for revenue to support the state budget. The Comptroller collects and administers Maryland taxes on income (both personal and corporate), retail sales, motor vehicle fuel tax, tobacco, beer, wine and liquor, and estate tax. The Comptroller serves on the Board of Public Works along with the Governor and the state Treasurer, who is appointed by the General Assembly.

SALARY: \$149,500 per year.
TERM: Four years, no term limit.
HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

The Issues

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

REVENUE SYSTEM: What policies will you implement to improve the efficiency and fairness of the collection of Maryland taxes?

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS: As a member of the Board of Public Works, what criteria would you use for evaluating contracts and capital projects that are subject to approval by that Board?

OTHER PRIORITIES: Please describe any other priorities you have for this office.

Candidates

Vote for 1

Anjali Reed Phukan
Republican Party

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

QUALIFICATIONS: I believe the top tax collector, auditor & maintainer of the public general ledger should be proficient in accounting. I am a certified public accountant, legally licensed to practice public accounting in Maryland. I also have an MBA in finance & another masters degree in information systems. I have private, federal & state work experiences in financial management systems, tax, accounting & audit.

REVENUE SYSTEM: I will update information systems statewide for usability and security, and promote tax credits and other incentives such as energy star, solar panels, etc. I

also will reduce interest and penalties for people who are being proactive & voluntarily reporting additional income the state would normally not have time to audit; coming clean should never be penalized.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS: I want spending to be more spread across Maryland, for all to enjoy the amazing nooks and crannies of our beautiful state. Safety is my number one priority in public works - safe roads for motorists, law enforcement, cyclists, pedestrians, businesses and our delicate environment. The prior history of contractors completing projects in time, safely, and within budget should also be reviewed.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I think it is unfair to tax retirement income. If we remove it all together we would increase our property and sales tax base, hence bring up our net revenues. I will also increase transparency across the comptroller office, not just in the general ledger, but also in how the state audits and comes to final resolution with tax payers. I will lovingly enforce the law equally for all.

Peter Franchot
Democratic Party
Campaign Website:
<http://www.franchot.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: As Maryland's independent fiscal watchdog, I'm proud of my record of achievement and results that I've delivered for Maryland taxpayers since I became Comptroller in 2007. Thanks to initiatives that we have implemented, and the hard work of the dedicated public servants in our

agency, ours is regarded as the most efficient and effective Comptroller's Office in the nation.
REVENUE SYSTEM: Our main focus continues to be processing tax returns accurately and efficiently. We have improved our agency's responsiveness to taxpayers and reduce call wait times. In my agency, tax fairness is a top priority. We continue to embrace innovative ways to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share. Moving forward, I will continue to build upon the tremendous progress we have made.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS: As a BPW member, I am proud to be a strong fiscal watchdog for Maryland's working families. I have advocated against single-bid contracts, fought for the inclusion of more Minority and Women-owned contracts in the procurement system, and have worked in a bipartisan fashion to instate reforms to our state's previously broken procurement process.

OTHER PRIORITIES: If elected to another term as Comptroller, I will continue to provide the independent leadership that Marylanders expect and deserve this office. I will fight for policies and priorities that grow our economy, safeguard our fiscal future, and protect the financial well-being of working families and small businesses.

Maryland Attorney General

DUTIES: The Attorney General is the chief legal office of Maryland, providing legal advice to the

Governor, the legislature, and all State departments, boards and most commissions. The Attorney General represents the state in all cases that relate to the Governor, the General Assembly, and most state agencies. The office also has responsibilities for consumer protection, civil rights, medical and investment fraud, and the juvenile justice system.

SALARY: \$149,500 per year.
TERM: Four years, no term limit.
HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

The Issues

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

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: What steps will you take to improve the efficiency and fairness of legal processes in Maryland?

LITIGATION: When should the Attorney General join lawsuits relating to federal regulations or corporate misconduct?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What actions will you take to address other issues, such as domestic violence, human trafficking, substance abuse, and protection of consumers?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Craig Wolf
Republican Party
Campaign Website:
<http://wolf4ag.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a former state and federal prosecutor, counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, business leader and decorated Soldier/Veteran. I have also been a volunteer EMT/Rescue Diver. I have a lifetime of public service and management. I believe the AG should focus on public safety, not politics and partisanship and should focus on issues of importance to all Marylanders regardless of party.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:

The Attorney General should be focused on balancing the need to enforce the laws and ensure public safety while ensuring due process for all Marylanders. The AG should lead by example by being ethical, avoiding conflicts of interest and making sure that all voices are heard before weighing in on a particular case, while at the same time vigorously enforcing the laws of the state.

LITIGATION: With respect to federal regulations, the Attorney General should weigh in only when there is a compelling state interest, a sound legal basis and a determination that the case can be won on the merits. Those decisions should not be based on political considerations. With respect to corporate misconduct, the AG ensure respect for the law and hold corporations fully accountable for misconduct.

DISCRIMINATION: There is no room in this state for discrimination based upon race, gender, religion, disability or poverty/class. The Attorney General should be vigilant to ensure that our laws are respected and people are treated equally.

OTHER PRIORITIES: As a

prosecutor/counsel to the Senate Jud. Comm., I focused on domestic violence/sexual exploitation/trafficking. The AG should make protection of the most vulnerable a priority. The opioid crisis in Maryland needs leadership from the AG to bring together the law enforcement, public health and recovery communities to find appropriate solutions. Consumer protection must be a priority as well.

**Brian E. Frosh
Democratic Party
Campaign Website:**

<http://www.brianfrosh.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I have served as Maryland's Attorney General for the past three years. Prior to being elected Attorney General, I was Chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, where I sponsored many laws that now protect Marylanders and our state including the law prohibiting oil drilling in the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland Recycling Act and the Maryland Firearm Safety Act.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:

Among the many steps that my office has taken to improve the efficiency and fairness of the legal processes in Maryland is our fight for and achievement of reforming the cash bail system, which jailed people in our state simply because they were poor. I will continue to work with the legislature to find and invest in strategies that increase public safety and recidivism.

LITIGATION: The Attorney General should join lawsuits relating to federal regulations or corporate misconduct when there is evidence that the people or state of Maryland

have been or will be adversely effected.

DISCRIMINATION: In 2015, my office was the first in the country to issue guidelines to all law enforcement agencies prohibiting profiling based upon race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, etc. We published a study of discrimination against LGBT citizens that was cited by the Supreme Court in its historic Obergefell decision. We have penalized and shut down industries that prey on the poor.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Over the past three years my office has achieved hundreds of millions of dollars of settlements and judgments from Wall Street Banks, Predatory Lenders, Automakers, Tobacco Companies, and Polluters who sought to injure or defraud Marylanders. My office is working with the multi-state investigation of opioid manufacturers. If re-elected, I pledge to remain the People's lawyer & continue our efforts.

U.S. Senator

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

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide. In 2018, Maryland voters will elect one of our two Senators. About one-third of the 100 members of the Senate is elected every two years. Senators must be at least 30 years old, have been citizens of the United States at least 9 years and be

residents of the state they want to represent.

TERM: Six years.

BASE SALARY: \$174,000 per year.

The Issues

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

HEALTH CARE: What changes in federal healthcare policy do you advocate and why?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

ECONOMIC POLICY: What policies will you support to strengthen the national economy, such as those affecting international trade, taxes, labor rights, and infrastructure?

IMMIGRATION: What changes, if any, will you support in immigration policy?

ENVIRONMENT: What are the most pressing environmental challenges and how will you address them?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

Candidates

Vote for 1

**Tony Campbell
Republican Party
Campaign Website:**

www.campbell4maryland.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I have 30 years of government and non-profit experience. I served on a Congressional staff and as a presidential appointee at Social

Security Administration. As a former Army officer, I understand national security issues as well as the need for sound foreign policy based on our national interest. I have real world experience and academic knowledge which is necessary to serve in the US Senate.

HEALTH CARE: I advocate for an end to ObamaCare. The national government should not be in the business of mandating health care coverage. A possible change I would be in favor of is looking at providing block grants to states from the national government to try to solve the opioid epidemic. Another change in health policy would be to allow Veterans to go to any hospital to get the care they need.

DISCRIMINATION: The Constitution of the United States guarantees liberties for citizens so they are equal under the law through the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Education Reform is one of the most pressing issues which can help to eliminate discrimination in our country. I support School Choice initiatives for all parents to send their children to the schools of their choice.

ECONOMIC POLICY: I am against raising taxes. I support a balanced budget amendment. I am in favor of bi-lateral Fair Trade policies. Keeping America Secure is a key focus of my campaign for US Senate. Our cyber infrastructure is severely compromised with American companies being hacked by foreign countries. Our energy grid infrastructure is also at risk and should be priority of the national government.

IMMIGRATION: National Sovereignty is connected to the ability of a country to protect its

borders. I support enhancing our border security through a variety of means including building a border wall and increased border agents. I am against current policies of the diversity lottery and chain migration. I am against a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people. I would support permanent residency status.

ENVIRONMENT: In Maryland, a pressing environmental challenge is the dredging of our waterways. Maryland is unique in the amount of waterways we have and the need we have for a partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers. As your next United States Senator, I will work to fully fund dredging projects to make sure our beautiful Chesapeake Bay is environmentally healthy.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Advocating Success, not subsistence. The American Dream has been not possible for a lot of Marylanders. As your next United States Senator, I want to promote a vision of economic success. I believe limited government intervention is important so people can build a legacy of wealth creation to pass onto their children and grandchildren.

Ben Cardin
Democratic Party
Campaign Website:
<http://www.bencardin.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: In the Senate, I fight every day for the issues of concern to my fellow Marylanders, promoting policies, legislation and programs that help our local and regional economy, encouraging public safety and supporting public

health. My success navigating the Small Business, Environment & Public Works, Finance and Foreign Relations committees allow me to effectively continue my advocacy for Marylanders.

HEALTH CARE: Health care is a human right. We should have seamless quality health care from pre-natal to death that is affordable without sacrificing quality and basic protections. Congress must restore the payments to insurers that have helped keep premiums in reach for millions. I have long supported a public option in the health exchanges that would increase competition, put patients first and lower costs.

DISCRIMINATION: Bills I have authored or cosponsored include: the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act, a resolution to remove the deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment, the Democracy Restoration Act, The Equality Act of 2017 and the Paycheck Fairness Act. I continue to support legislation to protect our LGBT students and adults. I support an increase in the federal minimum wage.

ECONOMIC POLICY: We should modify our tax code to truly target middle-income and working families, help small businesses & make smart investments in infrastructure & green technologies. Investments should address income inequality & raising wages. We need trade agreements that level the field for our workers, including robust & enforceable labor rights, environmental provisions & anti-corruption provisions.

IMMIGRATION: I support bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform, but Congress

must first pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers. We need a legal pathway to residency for TPS recipients. We don't need a wall but we can strengthen technology and other border security. We must stop President Trump's proposal to slash legal immigration, break up families and mostly close America's doors to refugees.

ENVIRONMENT: The president's unwillingness to confront climate change. I will fight for federal resources that compel this administration to invest, especially in clean air, clean water, renewable energy and public transit. We've seen success with funding for the Chesapeake Bay. If the Trump administration will not take steps necessary to protect our environment, we must encourage states to continue their work

OTHER PRIORITIES: Opioid addiction and abuse is a public health crisis. We must fight it head on with every available resource at all levels of government. Our drug laws must be smart, fair and rational, and treat addiction as a disease that requires treatment. We should improve access to evidence-based treatment centers, promote prevention education methods, and provide support for those in or seeking recovery.

Arvin Vohra
Libertarian Party
Campaign Website:
<http://votevohra.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: As an educator and entrepreneur, I have seen the damage government has done. I advocate repealing regulations,

ending government involvement in education, abolishing public schools, abolishing all government welfare, and ending the income tax. As Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party, I support ending the welfare-warfare state, ceasing involvement in foreign civil wars, and downsizing the military.

HEALTH CARE: I will sponsor legislation to abolish Obamacare, Medicare, Medicaid, the FDA, and cut taxes accordingly. Consider this: laser eye surgery, which is not covered by government insurance, has dropped from several thousand dollars to a few hundred per eye. EpiPen, which is covered, has increased in price from a hundred to several hundred dollars. Free markets make medicine actually affordable

DISCRIMINATION: I will sponsor legislation to immediately end Affirmative Action and all other government racial quotas and preferences. I will also work to eliminate all "anti-discrimination" laws, which accomplish nothing besides creating resentment. Any business has the right to refuse service to anyone, or fire any employee, for any reason. I will defund related government programs and cut taxes accordingly.

ECONOMIC POLICY: I will work to end the income tax by cutting federal spending, eliminating federal departments, firing federal employees, dismantling the welfare state, shutting down foreign military bases, and bringing the troops home. We'll have more money to spend on businesses that work, creating more free market, legitimate jobs, while also attracting job creating businesses to America.

IMMIGRATION: I will sponsor

legislation to open borders and end all welfare, including food stamps, public schools, social security, medicaid, and college financial aid. I also support ending the income tax, in order to attract entrepreneurs and job creators. Anyone who wants to come to America to work and create jobs should be welcome. No one who comes to America should get a cent of welfare.

ENVIRONMENT: The federal government is the biggest polluter in America. Much of that comes from massive military production of unneeded equipment. If elected, I will sponsor legislation to end production of needless military equipment, and to cease all environmentally destructive military overreach. I will work to end all involvement in foreign civil wars, bring the troops home, and cut taxes accordingly.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I will sponsor legislation to end all welfare, to encourage personal responsibility. I will sponsor legislation to end the drug war, to eliminate prohibition-created violence. I will sponsor legislation to cut federal spending, fire federal workers, dismantle federal agencies, in order to increase freedom and end the income tax.

Neal Simon
Unaffiliated Candidate
Campaign Website:
<http://www.nealsimon.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I've run several professional services companies in my career, where I was surrounded by many smart people with different ideas. My job in managing those companies was to listen, bring

people together, and find common ground. I have also been very involved in my community as a volunteer, board member, and board chair. I've chaired the Montgomery County and Greater Washington Community Foundations.

HEALTH CARE: It is time for the two parties to stop fighting over how to pay for an inefficient, costly health care system and instead find ways to reduce the crippling cost of healthcare for businesses and families. We need to enact reform that will incentivize wellness instead of incentivizing more procedures, to lower the overall cost of care.

DISCRIMINATION: I believe that America should be a place where everyone is treated equally, regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. I support equal pay for equal work, and other measures designed to accomplish this goal. I believe deeply that America should be a place where everyone can work hard and get ahead.

ECONOMIC POLICY: One of my primary objectives as your Senator is to create high-paying jobs in Maryland. I will work with our Governor & other leaders to attract large businesses and incentivize investment in small businesses, especially in lower income parts of our state. As far as infrastructure, I find it inexcusable that the two major parties have failed to work together to invest in our future.

IMMIGRATION: Immigration is an area where, despite 15 years of debate, the parties have been unable to agree on immigration reform. We need comprehensive reform that will strengthen our borders, increase temporary work

visas, expand the e-verification program, keep immigrant families together, and create paths for the law-abiding immigrants who have been here for a long time.

ENVIRONMENT: It is clear that the greatest environmental threat to our civilization is climate change, which is real and needs to be addressed in partnership with other countries. In Maryland, we need to protect the Chesapeake Bay from sediment flowing over the Conowingo Dam, I will work with our Governor, as well as Senators from NY and PA to ensure we have the federal resources we need to keep the Bay clean.

OTHER PRIORITIES: The extremes of the two parties have co-opted our government, and altered the rules in their favor. We need political reform, and it's clear that neither party is going to fix the brokenness in our government. I support 5 policies that will change the way Washington works: ending partisan gerrymandering, opening primaries, campaign finance reform, term limits, and modernizing the senate rules.

Michael B. Puskar
Write-in
Campaign Website:
<http://mbpuskar.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: The most important experience anyone can have when representing the People is living the way the majority of the People live. I am a working-class man for the working class. This is an asset lacking in or lost to most elected officials.

HEALTH CARE: One word: UNIVERSAL. Healthcare is a right,

and certain groups take advantage of the People's health for their own gain. While current proposals are far from the right solution, we need to move in that direction. Have you (or anyone you know) had a point in life when medical bills/costs were an impediment? There's no need for that to be.

DISCRIMINATION: Everyone is equal/equitable. Women & men deserve equal pay. No one should be singled out by law enforcement because of skin color. 1A allows for freedom of religion, so anyone can worship (or abstain therefrom) as they wish. Income inequality is too huge an issue in our wealthy nation: we need to stop giving breaks to those who don't need them - that is why they are called "breaks!"

ECONOMIC POLICY: America First, but that does not mean alienating allies. Workers first, but we need to help small biz too. Taxes: what if we stop paying elected officials far more than we ourselves make? MD's per capita income is about \$80k - Congressional salaries are >2x that for working as little as 1/3 of a year! As for infrastructure, we need to spend more there than on the war machine. Give jobs to vets!

IMMIGRATION: 1. Legal immigration needs to be prioritized to asylum seekers: We have an ancestry of immigrants based on need, not based on whom we like or dislike. 2. For every issue (not just immigration), I will put children first. So, when it comes to families not entering legally, we need to look at the needs of migrant children.

ENVIRONMENT: Climate change is an issue. Going green is an eventual ideal, but we cannot do it overnight... miners still have jobs; most people can only afford gas-

powered cars. The aforementioned economic issues need fixing first. **OTHER PRIORITIES:** With children first, education matters greatly, and dealing with income equality/healthcare can assist with that. Eliminating college debt would help immensely and allow for a more diverse/stress-free assortment in the workforce. I also strongly support the rights of veterans. The gov't can't do enough to repay those who have sacrificed much for us. Finally, I support animal welfare. #MustLoveDogs

Edward Shlikas Write-In

QUALIFICATIONS: I am an experienced, tried and true leader. I collaborate well with others. I am not on the take like all other Democratic and Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate in Maryland, who take money from PACs and wealthy individuals, and in return do their bidding, instead of representing the People. I will represent the best interests of all Marylanders and Americans. Vote Shlikas for Senate.

HEALTH CARE: Universal Single Payer Healthcare for all Americans. Our current healthcare system sucks. We pay the most money for our healthcare and we get the worst healthcare of all developed nations. Because our current senators are so corrupt and on the take, insurance and pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and doctors make an exorbitant amount of money for providing horrible healthcare to Americans.

DISCRIMINATION: Criminally prosecute companies that

discriminate against people based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty. Criminally prosecute executives in companies that discriminate, including CEOs and Board Members. Criminally prosecute members of Congress and the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government, who discriminate based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty.

ECONOMIC POLICY: Include in the negotiations affecting international trade, from the start, all Americans' interests, not just the wealthy and corporations, who own and control all three branches of our federal government. Include environmental, health, and labor interests. Get rid of the Federal Reserve, who artificially set interest rates to benefit bankers and the Wealthy1%. End the War on Plants/Drugs.

IMMIGRATION: Stop allowing corporations like Tech and Agricultural companies exploit immigrants by paying them below market wages and benefits, which suppresses the wages and benefits of American workers, through programs like H1-B. Criminally prosecute corporations, executives, and the wealthy who employ and exploit illegal immigrants by paying them below market wages. Stop scapegoating immigrants.

ENVIRONMENT: Pollution. Stop coal, oil, chemical, power, and agribusiness corporations from polluting our environment with impunity. Criminally prosecute the corporations, executives, board members, and government officials who knowingly pollute out environment and sicken and kill people. Stop subsidizing corporations with taxpayer money that pollute our environment. Stop

farm runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

OTHER PRIORITIES: We must get the Wealthy1% and corporations, who own and control all three branches of our government, out of power. We must get moneyed interests out of the business of buying our representatives elections through "donations," aka bribes, and publicly finance all candidates with the same amount of money. We must End the War on Plants/Drugs and legalize all plants to reduce overdoses and deaths.

Lih Young Write-in

Campaign Website:
<http://www.vote-md.org>

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

HEALTH CARE: Support single-payer healthcare by government, affordable health care. Our health care system should not be controlled by for-profit corporations. To improve quality, affordable health care for all as a fundamental right and should be achieved by the government. Medical costs should not be shifted onto other programs (e.g., Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries). Promote productivity,

accountability

DISCRIMINATION: Equal protection, non-discrimination; employment/business/activities; rights/homes/vehicles/resources/reputation/ freedoms/ affiliation, environment; document, evidence. Equal pay, sick paid leaves. Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER-FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation; threat/coercion/victimization; physical/mental/financial/medication /litigation/levies/ foreclosures

ECONOMIC POLICY:

Prosecute/eliminate " official misconduct-government gang- MURDER-FRAUD-CRIME-INJUSTICE NETWORKS" operation, unjust/false/misleading practices; private-public; 3 branches, local-fed- global, inc. non-profit, think tanks. Protect people/families/ businesses: lives, rights, reputation, assets, vehicles, resources. Promote productivity, public interest, cost-benefits, social needs, budget constraints.

IMMIGRATION: SUPPORT:

Comprehensive immigration reform. Promote humanity, productivity, justice, peace. Protect people, families, environment. Prosecute "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE networks"; unjust practices, victimization, deprivation, destruction; threat, coercion; unjust arrest, detention, torture. Reduce fees, fast processing of citizen application/replacement card

ENVIRONMENT: End:

dependence/subsidies for fossil fuels, coal, nuclear energy, offshore oil drilling, spills. Curb carbon pollution, medical costs. Improve regulation/oversight. Promote clean

air, water, renewable energy. Protect public health, environment. Promote efficiency, technology, research. Reduce unjust practices, hacking, manipulation, obstruction; false excuses, distortion. Prosecute wrongdoers.

OTHER PRIORITIES:

Prosecute/eliminate "official misconduct-government gang- MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS"= "cruel tyranny"= "robbery machine"= "ROBBER-ISM"= "super classes of frauds, crimes, parasites, disservices"; public-private; 3 branches, local- global. Promote accountability, social needs. objective evaluations. Televised candidate debate; maintain/disseminate accurate meaningful records,proceeding

Representative in Congress Congressional District 1

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

TERM: Two years

BASE SALARY: \$174,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435

Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2010 Census.

The Issues

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

HEALTH CARE: What changes in federal healthcare policy do you advocate and why?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

ECONOMIC POLICY: What policies will you support to strengthen the national economy, such as those affecting international trade, taxes, labor rights, and infrastructure?

IMMIGRATION: What changes, if any, will you support in immigration policy?

ENVIRONMENT: What are the most pressing environmental challenges and how will you address them?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Andy Harris
Republican Party

Campaign Website:

<http://www.andyharris.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: Having raised my family in the 1st District, I understand the difficulties that face families in today's economy and culture. As a practicing physician, I have first-hand experience with the problems people have dealing with insurers, the high cost of health care

and the difficulty finding providers, especially for our seniors. As a veteran, I know how hard it is to find the benefits they earned

HEALTH CARE: We have to bring down the cost of health care and health care insurance, which was a failure of the Affordable Care Act. We can do this by opening up price transparency in the health care system, by bringing down the cost of drugs, and most importantly, by re-establishing high risk health insurance pools in which the cost of high premiums are brought down by sharing the cost among everyone.

DISCRIMINATION: Discrimination in any form should not be tolerated in a free society like America - which was established on the principle that all people are created equal - and should therefore be treated that way. One policy that I support is the conscience protection laws that are unfortunately necessary at the state and federal level for freedom of religion protection.

ECONOMIC POLICY: The tax reform passed last year was essential in re-establishing America's pre-eminence in the global economy. Lowering our business tax rates to be competitive world-wide will result in millions of jobs returning to the United States. I support the proposals to increase investment in our infrastructure which has fallen so far behind - including public-private partnerships and rural broadband.

IMMIGRATION: We have to enforce our current immigration laws while offering continuing temporary legal status to DACA recipients. We should end the diversity visa lottery and shift to a merit-based system like Canada. Finally, we have to recognize that

many industries in the 1st District, like seafood processing and tourism, depend on temporary foreign labor - so we have to enhance the H2B visa system.

ENVIRONMENT: The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and an economic boon to Maryland and the First District. That's why I have supported full and continued funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program in the federal budget. We have to work with our upstream states to make sure that progress continues, and we have to come up with innovative affordable solutions to the problems of the Conowingo Dam sediment.

OTHER PRIORITIES: American defense strength has to be restored. It has languished under the last administration, and that has led us to a more dangerous world situation in areas like Eastern Europe, the South China Sea, and the Korean peninsula. American pre-eminence in the world has to be re-established, as we are the leading force for freedom and liberty throughout the world - much of which looks to us to lead.

Jesse Colvin
Democratic Party
Campaign Website:
<http://www.jessecolvin.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I've spent my adult life running towards difficult problems. 9/11 led me to study Arabic, teach English in Syria, and join the Army. I served as a intelligence officer and U.S. Army Ranger through four combat deployments to Afghanistan. Afterwards, I worked to identify insider fraud at an investment bank. Our country and our district need

leadership, vision, and action - right now.

HEALTH CARE: Healthcare is a right. I want to allow any individual or business to purchase Medicare coverage; convert Medicaid into a branch of Medicare, so each enrollee receives equal benefits and states can go back to education and transportation; convert CHIP into MediKids, so every baby receives comprehensive healthcare until she is an adult; and permit Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.

DISCRIMINATION: Discrimination of any sort is abhorrent and contrary to our ideals. As an Army Ranger, I fought to protect and defend our Constitution, which ensures equal protection under the law for each American. I support prohibiting all forms of discrimination as I believe this will make our nation stronger and more just. Similarly, I firmly support guaranteeing women's right to equal pay for equal work.

ECONOMIC POLICY: The next generation of software developers, solar panel technicians, or cybersecurity experts can learn, work, and grow businesses in MD1. Let's invest in tomorrow. Let's invest in solar jobs, MD1's burgeoning ecotourism economy, and technologies and sustainable practices that protect the Bay and allow farmers to increase harvests and more effectively access markets near and far.

IMMIGRATION: We need a comprehensive immigration bill that honors our "nation of immigrants" history and protects Dreamers, offer a pathway to citizenship to aspiring Americans, and secures our border. Most people agree with these goals: the only thing stopping us is

partisan politics. I will work with any other representatives to find common ground.

ENVIRONMENT: Sea-level rise is the one of the most pressing challenges facing MD1. To prevent disaster, we must convert our economy into a renewable one: it's cheaper, safer, and one of the fastest growing industries in country and state. Solar will soon enough be the cheapest source of energy on the planet. We should help fund installations because they provides clean energy and well-paying jobs.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Our district's drug-related deaths trend nearly 50% higher than the national average. We must join together—regardless of our differences—to face this challenge. We need a comprehensive plan that includes prevention, treatment, and recovery. To succeed, it must also have buy-in from federal, state, and local governments as well as healthcare professionals, insurers, and communities themselves.

Jenica Martin
Libertarian Party
Campaign Website:
<http://www.martin4congress.us>

QUALIFICATIONS: I hold a M.A. in Public Policy. I worked with a non-profit legislative organization in Washington, D.C. I successfully fought against labor law violations for 1600+ workers in NYC. I worked with the Catholic Charities Department for Persons with Disabilities as an advocate for the disabled community. And, now I serve as an advocate for abused and neglected children in foster care.

HEALTH CARE: Repeal the ACA and

other Federal interventions while, fostering a stronger health care market encompassing already established innovations (Prepaid Group Plans, Affordable Primary Care, Reverse Deductibles, and Secure Health Insurance). Eliminate federal interference that hinders market innovations. Market innovations promote lowered costs and better access to secure health care.

DISCRIMINATION: Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation. This includes supporting legislation such as, the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act, and the Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act.

ECONOMIC POLICY: Cut federal spending from 21% of the GDP to less than 18% then, balance the budget to pay down the debt. Reform federal laws that impede the privatization of state and local infrastructure. Foster universal savings accounts for families to build wealth without double taxation. And, eradicate tariffs on imports that reduce production costs and promote domestic industry investments.

IMMIGRATION: Allow states to regulate and operate their own migrant worker programs. Reform the H-1B visa program for highly skilled migrant workers by eliminating the cap. Restrict noncitizen access to means-tested welfare. And, expand legal immigration opportunities by implementing easier and more

affordable pathways to citizenship (current programs can take up to 10 years for citizenship acquirement).

ENVIRONMENT: Limit the quantity of emissions and funnel the proceeds from sales to those who are exposed to the pollutants. Eliminate the federal regulatory intervention of renewable energy access. Protect State's rights to regulate off-shore drilling and 'fracking'. And, foster stronger protection for national waterways and air quality.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Combat the opioid crisis by implementing the financial accountability of pharmaceutical companies. Eliminate proposals to utilize taxpayer dollars to address opioid addiction consequences. Offer greater and easier access to alternative pain management options including, medicinal marijuana. Require greater cessation educational programs and options for patients prescribed opioid based medications.

Maryland State Senate

DUTIES: State Senators represent residents in each legislative district in the Maryland General Assembly. The General Assembly enacts laws, raises revenue through taxes and fees, and appropriates funds for all state agencies in an annual budget. The General Assembly may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters. The Senate also confirms the Governor's appointments of

judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

SALARY: \$50,330 annual base.

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: The state is divided into 47 legislative districts, and each district elects one State Senator.

Senator District 37

HOW ELECTED: District 37 includes all of Dorchester and Talbot counties and parts of Caroline and Wicomico counties. One State Senator is elected by all qualified voters in the area cited.

The Issues

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

REDISTRICTING: What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

ENVIRONMENT: What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

EDUCATION: What education policies would you support and how would you fund them?

HEALTH CARE: What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

Candidates

Vote for 1

**Adelaide "Addie" Eckardt
Republican Party**

Campaign Website:

<http://www.addieeckardt.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: 40 years experience as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist with the State, 20 years as a State Delegate for 37B and 4 years State Senator District 37. Understanding of and expertise and experience with various levels of government and many community organizations. Background in Family and organizational systems theory

REDISTRICTING: Independent commission and I have fought for single member districts as I believe that is the only way that all minorities will be truly represented.

ENVIRONMENT: Maintaining and sustaining the value of the Chesapeake Bay, our estuary, with continued focus on upgrades to our wastewater treatment systems, failing septic systems assistance, investment in sustainable oyster futures and a multi state and business engagement with the Conowingo Dam.

DISCRIMINATION: Inclusion of and engagement with all to promote an integrated approach. Clearly articulated guidelines and a system for a fair while due process. We reviewed and strengthened the sexual harassment policy this year and established reasonable changes. The experience is a good model to use for future. Continued focus on community development that uses an integrated approach and the Two Gen model.

EDUCATION: I believe many of the policies passed this year are significant for Maryland. The constitutional Amendment to assure that future Casino revenues go to a locked box. Additional funds for safe schools and elements of the Knott commission and Kirwin Commission. Innovation for locals to regionalize if desired.

HEALTH CARE: The continued cost of care is a challenge as we have expanded coverage for many citizens. How we shape the community delivery system with the workforce shortages as there are not adequate resources for children and adolescents with psychiatric and behavioral issues in the rural areas. I have begun those conversations to develop that system.

TRANSPORTATION: Gradual restoration of Highway user funds for safe roads and bridges. Continue efficiencies in the Transportation Trust Fund and the system

**Holly Wright
Democratic Party
Campaign Website:**

<http://hollywrightforsenate.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I have 20+ years experience in public health at the state and regional level and worked with legislators throughout my professional career. I have known what it looks like when a legislator knows the needs of the district and fights for them. I know the business of government: the importance of jurisdiction, funding streams, and permitting. When I don't know the answer, I do know the questions.

REDISTRICTING: I am in favor of districts that are compact and

contiguous, and reflect more nearly county and municipal boundaries rather than voter registration, previous election results and office holder's addresses. According to a February Goucher College poll, over 70% of Maryland residents agree.

ENVIRONMENT: To achieve the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint adequate financial support for cover crops and drainage control structures for use by Shore farmers is needed to decrease the concentration of nitrogen. Strengthening the forest conservation act and replacement of priority forests will further sustain and improve air and water quality. Increased reliance on sustainable energy is needed.

DISCRIMINATION: Policies which remove barriers to voter registration and make voting more convenient are important for providing truly equal opportunity for participation in the democratic process. Voter ID bills which continue to be introduced in the General Assembly would achieve just the opposite and must be opposed as a practice that discriminates against and disenfranchises the poor.

EDUCATION: I am in favor of updating the funding formula for State support for k-12 education to devote more resources to at risk youth, those living in poverty and special education students. I am in favor of universal early childhood education programs for 4 years olds. Reforms should be supported through both state and county funding sources.

HEALTH CARE: The establishment and funding of a reinsurance pool will stabilize the individual market place. I support the creation of a public option for health insurance

while working on a system for health care for all in the longer term. A state level commission to control prescription drug prices is essential to make this very important component of health care affordable for all.

TRANSPORTATION: Of particular concern to rural areas of the state was the 2010 reduction by 90% of highway user revenues for most jurisdictions. The past two legislative sessions have produced improvements providing increased local transportation aid. I am in favor of continued progress in restoration of the highway user revenues.

House of Delegates

DUTIES: Delegates share responsibility with State Senators for enactment of the State's laws as provided for in the Constitution of the State of Maryland. This includes the approval of all state taxes and the spending budget for all state programs.

SALARY: \$50,330 annual base.

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

House of Delegates District 37B

HOW ELECTED: District 37B includes all of Talbot County and parts of Caroline, Dorchester, and Wicomico Counties. Qualified voters in District 37B cast votes for 2 candidates. The 2 candidates who receive the largest number of votes are elected EXCEPT that each

person elected must live in a different county.

The Issues

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

REDISTRICTING: What changes, if any, do you support in the process for drawing congressional and legislative district lines in Maryland?

ENVIRONMENT: What are the most significant environmental challenges and how will you address them?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you support to address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

EDUCATION: What education policies would you support and how would you fund them?

HEALTH CARE: What are the most significant health challenges facing Maryland and how will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

Candidates

Vote for up to 2

Christopher T. Adams
Republican Party
Campaign Website:

<http://adamsformaryland.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I am the incumbent representative and a 3rd generation family businessman. In my first term I have listened to my constituents and educated myself on the concerns of our community. It

has been a priority of mine to then find solutions and develop common ground with elected officials and government employees in our State. I respect the duties of this office and know how to get the job done.

REDISTRICTING: I support non partisan redistricting efforts that deliver compact districts and give voters fair elections. This is a problem throughout the country and Maryland has the distinction of having some of the most gerrymandered districts in the nation. I join Governor Larry Hogan in demanding politics be removed from the process and in doing so protect our citizen's rights to free and fair elections.

ENVIRONMENT: Our State must continue to improve and replace aging municipal stormwater and sewer systems. In addition we must continue to hold the EPA and States along the Susquehanna river to task for out of State pollution that threatens the health of the Chesapeake Bay. I voted for the FY2019 Budget that provides historic funding levels for environmental stewardship and 1.2 billion for Bay restoration.

DISCRIMINATION: I uphold those policies that guarantee each Citizen the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As a businessman I believe we must honor each persons contributions to society free from acts of discrimination and prejudice. For those Citizens who need a helping hand up, I support those safety net policies that provide safe housing, welfare, and apprenticeship training.

EDUCATION: Control should be returned to local Boards of Education and the classroom must be returned to the teachers free

from overbearing State and Federal regulation. I voted for the FY2019 budget where Governor Hogan continues to fully fund every formula based mandate for education. I support a well funded education system that empowers our teachers to meet each child's educational needs.

HEALTH CARE: The Federal Government has failed in delivering on the promise of affordable healthcare. As a businessman who offers these health benefits to employees I see firsthand the financial dysfunction. Maryland should attempt to stabilize the market from catastrophic increases in premiums and deductibles. In the long term the only solution is a system built on free market competition and consumer choice.

TRANSPORTATION: The taking of Highway User Revenues (HUR) by the O'Malley Administration to balance their budget ranks as one of the top issues facing County and Municipal elected officials. These monies pay for local road construction and repair projects. I join Governor Larry Hogan and our House Republican Caucus in calling for the restoration of these dollars desperately needed in our jurisdiction.

Johnny Mautz
Republican Party
Campaign Website:

<http://www.johnnymautz.com>

QUALIFICATIONS: I am seeking reelection to the House of Delegates. I grew up working in our family restaurant in St. Michaels, which I currently oversee. I have 16 years experience serving as a

Counsel and Legislative Director in the U.S. House of Representatives and three years experience serving as Special Assistant in Governor Ehrlich's Office. I am married and our two children attend public schools.

REDISTRICTING: I support Gov. Hogan's effort to create a nonpartisan commission to reform our legislative districts, which are renowned for being contorted and disfigured. This has been done to preserve political power at the expense of our citizens. I also support single member state legislative districts. This nonpartisan commission could easily resolve these issues, and I support reforming redistricting.

ENVIRONMENT: Our greatest environmental challenge stems from pollution that is dumped into the Chesapeake Bay from other states and from the outdated Baltimore City sewer system. I intend to support efforts to hold Conowingo Dam operators responsible for related environmental damage to the Bay and will support efforts to hold neighboring states and Baltimore City accountable for their Bay pollution.

DISCRIMINATION: I support balanced proposals to help ensure equal pay, diversity in the workplace and affordable housing. While there are disparities throughout society, I strongly support efforts to provide workforce training and balanced proposals that help individuals overcome past mistakes to secure sound future employment. I have also supported proposals to support employment for the disabled.

EDUCATION: I support a balanced universal pre-K program and in my view, gambling revenues would be a

good funding option. I strongly support dual enrollment programs, efforts to link education with the workforce to help prepare students, and empowering local school district with disciplinary authority. Finally, I support amending the school funding formula to ensure school districts are treated fairly.

HEALTH CARE: Independent health care insurance rates are astronomical; I support creating a pool for independents. We are facing a mental health treatment crisis largely due to a lack of providers because of onerous credentialing procedures - I support changing these procedures. We need beds for addiction treatment and should utilize obsolete facilities. Independent pharmacies also need our support.

TRANSPORTATION: Our top transportation priority is to restore Highway User Revenue funding to county and local governments. Governor Hogan has started this process but we have a long way to go. Another key transportation priority for our area is to develop a comprehensive dredging plan for our navigable waterways - this will be costly but is possible with the support of our Federal Delegation.

Dan O'Hare
Democratic Party
Campaign Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Dan-OHare-for-Maryland-Delegate-37B>

QUALIFICATIONS: I have extensive experience in various industries and am a street philosopher. I spend my free time reading anthropology, history, philosophy, and literature. I debate

ideas, not people. I think identity politics has its place and is important to specific groups, but white nationalism as identity has changed the debate from ideas to emotions only. We need to discuss emotions and ideas, not or.

REDISTRICTING: I prefer we undo the gerrymandering. Fair representation should be the basis for a representative government.

ENVIRONMENT: Climate Change. We need a massive overhaul of our system, including our infrastructure, transportation and energy systems.

DISCRIMINATION: I believe the economics of our system causes the discrimination. 400 characters is not enough to address this completely. Discrimination is a problem, and I will be looking to address it on the campaign trail and if I get elected or not. It should be the duty of all honest people to end discrimination.

EDUCATION: We need to ensure that children are able to get an education in a safe environment, and we need to enact policies that ensure that. This includes being well fed. We also (on the Shore) have an issue with access to broadband. This is an educational issue. My understanding is the funding is available for this, but local officials need to work with the state to see that this infrastructure happens.

HEALTH CARE: Medicare For All with an employer tax for each employee will save companies that currently provide healthcare a good deal of money. If we leave the moral question of "who gets healed" to the unthinking and immoral "free market" than we have sacrificed our morality on a basic level. If we choose to sacrifice our morals for that question, I don't understand why we think we have any morality

at all.

TRANSPORTATION: We need a complete overhaul of our transportation system. We have been putting an adhesive strip on cancer for too long. Multiple roads are closed on the shore a few days a year for high tides. These tides are not going to become more infrequent or lower. Climate change isn't going away just because people pretend it isn't real.

Talbot County Offices

Talbot County Council

DUTIES: Council powers and responsibilities are derived from the Charter of Talbot County as adopted in November 1974. The Council appoints a County Manager who serves as the chief administrative officer of the County. The Council also appoints the County Attorney and Members of all boards and Commissions. They maintain and update the Talbot Co. Code and oversee the administrative units of the County including planning, planning and zoning, public works and budget and finance. The County Council is composed of five members elected at large.

BASE SALARY: \$14,400

TERM: Four years.

HOW ELECTED: Elected county-wide.

The Issues

QUALIFICATIONS: Please describe how your training and experience prepare you for the duties of this office.

EDUCATION: As a council member, how would you be an advocate for quality public schools?

DIVERSITY: As an elected official, what can you do to make sure the county is engaging with and responsive to the diverse population that lives here?

BUDGET: In an era of decreased public revenues, how would you prioritize spending and in what areas would you make cuts if necessary?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE: How would you balance economic development, property rights, and environmental concerns?

Candidates

Vote for up to 5

Chuck Callahan
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: As a business owner of three businesses, one of which, West and Callahan, is a family business in existence for nearly 50 years, I have daily challenges to make sure projects are on schedule, resolve problems on the job, meet with perspective clients, manage cash flow, resolve client problems to their satisfaction, make sure supplies are ordered & delivered to jobs, solve employee issues, etc.

EDUCATION: Must address the challenges public schools are facing and determine what is the best course of action for providing a

quality education for the students. I also feel we need to advocate to strengthen the career training programs for students who will not be attending college after high school and help these students transition into a meaningful career after school.

DIVERSITY: As an elected official, I feel it is my duty to listen to, be respectful and responsive to my constituents. I am always willing to hear from the community on particular issues they feel is important to them and to weigh their concerns with what I think is best for the County on any decision that I as an elected official, and the Council as a whole, must make.

BUDGET: Priority should be given to spending for public safety (police, fire, EMT, etc) and keeping County infrastructure (roads, water and sewer) in good working order. These impact all County residents because good public safety and infrastructure encourage a good business, working and living environment. Schools should also be given priority so that the future residents of Talbot are well educated.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE: As a Talbot County native, I am aware of the concerns for our environment, but also am aware of the need to allow the business community to thrive so that we have jobs and economic opportunities to offer to our residents, along with protecting property owners rights and applying those laws fairly and equally. We all want to keep Talbot beautiful, but there is a way to work together to do so.

Frank Divilio
Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

Corey W. Pack
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: Mr. Pack is currently serving in his third term as a member of the Talbot County Council. He has been elected President or Vice President of the Council for five of his ten years. Mr. Pack is a graduate from the University of Delaware, holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He is Fellow of the University of Maryland Academy for Excellence in Local Governance.

EDUCATION: Working with the Board of Education is key to solving the educational challenges in the County. Mr. Pack has been a strong advocate of exploring different modern technologies to assist the teacher and student in the class room. The current climate of school safety is paramount with Mr. Pack, as he hopes to work with the Superintendent and Law Enforcement officials to ensure safe schools.

DIVERSITY: Talbot County Government has a zero tolerance with discrimination of any type in the work place. Mr. Pack understands that Talbot County is a tourist destination and will continue working with County departments and ensure that all persons feel welcome while enjoying our parks, landings and other recreational facilities. Mr. Pack continues to work to make affordable housing a reality for everyone

BUDGET: An essential part of

governing is deciding where limited public funds should best be spent. Educational spending is still 50% of the County's budget, yet County teachers still remain the lowest paid in the State. Public Safety for County citizens and visitors is of great importance to Mr. Pack, a sense of security will not only keep persons in the County but will bring visitors back each year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &

LAND USE: Mr. Pack has worked with the County's Tourism and Economic Development staff with strategies to allow businesses to take advantage of programs to implement alternative energy savings. He will continue working with the Planning Commission and the Planning Department to create appropriate land use policies, to ensure property rights, protect sensitive areas and maintain the community character.

Laura Everngam Price
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: My 8 years of service on the County Council have prepared me to solve issues Talbot County still faces. As a native, I have a deep appreciation of our heritage and how to maintain the character of this special place. My fiscal policies have been shaped by my experience as a local small business owner.

EDUCATION: As legislative liaison for MACo, I testified for greater state education funding, due to a formula that unfairly penalizes our county, to relieve the burden on Talbot County taxpayers while ensuring we can provide quality education. Since my own sons are

TCPs graduates, I am well aware of the importance of a good educational system here and balancing the budget.

DIVERSITY: The ordinances and laws passed by the County Council are discussed and acted upon with regard to serving the entire Talbot County population. We are all part of one community, and we take into consideration the needs of various groups within the demographics of the county without singling out individual groups.

BUDGET: I have set priorities in the budget, ensuring that public safety is funded to the maximum amount we can justify within current fiscal resources. In addition, we have streamlined specific offices: emergency services and the 911 center, tourism and economic development, proposing a revenue cap solution, Price's Penny Plan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE: We must comply with state and federal laws to protect the environment. Existing property rights must be the driver when considering economic development. Ignoring laws that protect individual property rights will devalue property and change the character of the area. Economic development must complement our quality of living.

Jennifer L. Williams
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: My background provides me with abilities to successfully lead Talbot County. As an attorney, I have the education and experience to analyze complex issues and find solutions. As a graduate of the prestigious State Bar Leadership Academy I have 2

years of training in leadership skills. As a graduate of the U of MD Academy for Excellence in Local Governance I have training in local government.

EDUCATION: I will continue to work with our local Board of Education to find ways to leverage the funds available to provide for the best education possible for all of our students. I will continue to advocate for both technical programs and college prep programs to give our students the opportunity to expand their learning options.

DIVERSITY: As an elected official I will make sure that all county departments continue to receive training that provides them with the information necessary to serve all of our citizens. I will continue to advocate for all of our departments to provide the best customer service possible to each and every citizen of our county.

BUDGET: I look at fundamental government functions such as education, public safety, emergency services, paramedics, sheriff's office, county roads, public works, planning and zoning and identify them as need to have and thus need to fund. I look at all the unfunded mandates that are required to fund. I look at the nice to have rather than need to have and sadly would have to make cuts in those areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &

LAND USE: I don't see the 3 as being incompatible. I believe that well planned economic development can occur in concert with property rights and environmental concerns. It is important to look at the big picture and not get bogged down. Most issues can be resolved through good communication and open

minded attitudes. As a law professor told me a good solution is one all can live with but none like.

Keasha N. Haythe
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: Worked in county government for 16 years and developed a track record of initiating sound policies and innovative strategies to foster economic growth. Partnering with private and public stakeholders, I've championed education, entrepreneurship, and expansion of existing businesses as key economic drivers. Managed a team of professionals, secured more than \$10M, and helped create hundreds of jobs.

EDUCATION: As a business owner and a mom, I know first-hand that education and economic prosperity go hand-in-hand. Children need to master core skills early in order to master technical or professional skills when they graduate. Our children, including my three who attended public schools, must be prepared to compete on a global stage. Ensuring educational funding and resources is one of my priorities.

DIVERSITY: The first step would be engaging diverse populations to determine what they would like to see. Instead of a top-down approach, we have to consider a bottom-up approach by listening to the needs and concerns. It's about customizing an engagement strategy to meet the needs of each group in the way they want them met, and with the mission of building trust and long-term, sustainable partnerships.

BUDGET: The budget is a complex matter, I believe having the right economic development strategy in place could increase revenues. Without seeing the budget and reviewing line item by line item it is premature to say any cuts would be made. Additionally, public safety, senior programs, education and economic development would be priorities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE: Sustainable development and smart growth are ways to balance economic development, land use, and environmental concerns. Working with our local municipalities is important. Maryland enacted PFA's to help balance development; however, the more annexation approved, the more development you see. I believe working together and ensuring each party has a seat at the table would be a good start.

Naomi Hyman
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I've worked on political campaigns at every level since I was a teenager. For more than 30 years, I've been a bridge builder in settings ranging from the boardroom to the classroom to the family room. And I've spent the last year learning the issues, challenges and politics of Talbot County, including deep dives into planning and zoning and County finances.

EDUCATION: We need smaller classes, competitive compensation to attract teachers, and up-to-date instructional materials and technology. I will champion the full funding of our public schools and ensure that we maximize revenue

from all funding sources. As a first step, I will work to bring the County Council and the Board of Education together to find the best solutions for our students and our county.

DIVERSITY: We need a unified and diverse County that recognizes not just our differences, but also our shared values and aspirations. I will work to build bridges to every geographic, economic and racial part of our community and to develop an inclusive governing strategy. I will start by working to improve communications and build a sense of connection between the Council and those they serve.

BUDGET: There's no waste left to cut in our budget; at this point we are failing to adequately fund the basic and appropriate functions of local government including education, infrastructure and public safety. The current overly restrictive property tax revenue cap must be eliminated and replaced with an alternative that provides the County with a realistic, responsible and sustainable revenue stream.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE: Talbot County relies on Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and our fields, forests and farms for economic benefit, recreation, and for our sense of history and place. I will listen to and work with all stakeholders to support the health of the environment, the lifeblood of our economy, and to find sensible solutions that balance the often conflicting priorities of our community.

Pete Leshner
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I am trained as a historian, taking a critical look at multiple sources and seeking an understanding of the past to give insight to our present situation. I am a 3rd-term member of Easton Town Council, and am a graduate of the Md Municipal League / Univ. of Md Academy for Excellence in Local Government, covering ethics, budgeting, open meetings, etc.

EDUCATION: The reputation of our public schools leaves Talbot at a competitive disadvantage to other counties in business and employee recruitment. We need to focus on measures that will improve realities in the schools for pupils across the learning spectrum. The school programs directed at enrichment, vocational education, and the use of 21st century technologies are steps in the right direction.

DIVERSITY: Legal requirements for official government notifications are insufficient for reaching all residents, and we need to engage on the platforms that today's populations use—from social media to reverse 911 texts. Our emergency services have taken important steps in this direction, and other departments have sought to bridge language barriers. County government needs to increase these efforts.

BUDGET: County government has been cut to the bone, and basic services we expect as citizens are suffering as a consequence. I support a revised property tax cap so that we won't be forced to make cuts in public safety or other vital county services. Our low county property and income tax rates are

attractive for business recruitment, and I will defend this advantage.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE: Talbot's rural character makes it an attractive place to live, work, and retire, and we need to defend it by continuing to channel balanced growth as infill into the parts of the county that have the infrastructure to support it, principally the municipalities. The county has made important strides in clean water initiatives by slowing stormwater runoff, and these efforts need to continue.

Rosalee "Rose" Potter
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: Former Town Commissioner with 8 yrs of experience, vast community involvements, participant on many local committees, Board of Director Member for many organizations, BASW (Bachelor of Social Work) Degree, graduated Cum Laude from Salisbury University. Being as involved as I am in my community has prepared me with the experiences to logically process the situations that will come.

EDUCATION: It is advantageous for the school to teach skills so that knowledge is transferred to the student. As Council member and an advocate, I will be supportive of the initiatives that are presented so that quality learning is enhanced thereby producing a student who achieves academically.

DIVERSITY: As an elected official, I will support different minority programs and organizations in an effort to ensure the community is informed and involved in the diverse population that lives in the County.

BUDGET: Prioritizing spending means I would choose those items that are at the top of consideration (or the most urgent). I would make cuts on the less urgent or those that can be delayed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &

LAND USE: There has to be a constant dialogue between the Council and the citizenry. In order to get this accomplished, more modern technology needs to be used i.e. an interactive website when planning and developing stipulations to better educate the community.

Maureen Scott-Taylor
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: For the past 30 years I have worked in Talbot County as Tourism Director, Easton's Main Street Manager and Economic Development Director and Easton Utilities Corporate Communications Director. In addition, I was elected twice to the Easton Town Council where I served the citizens with passion and pride. My extensive background working with the public will serve me well on the County Council.

EDUCATION: I am a firm believer in our public school system. It is one of the foundations of our country. Every child deserves the best education possible so they can compete in the global workplace. I promise to fully fund our schools and work with the school board to find solutions to the problems we face regarding safety, equality, the at-risk population and others.

DIVERSITY: Talbot County is changing. Our population has become more diverse and we need to address the needs of all of

our citizens. The county currently has an opening for a part-time public information officer, reporting directly to the County Manager. I suggest changing that to a full time position and add the responsibility of working with the minority community as well.

BUDGET: We need to find additional revenue streams, without putting the burden on our citizens. The county budget is very lean already. I would not recommend making any cuts at this time. Looking at increasing the accommodations tax, which has been at 4% for the past 15 years is one way of increasing revenue through visitors to our county.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &

LAND USE: This is a problem nationwide. If you are a homeowner, you have the right to a peaceful co-existence with your neighbors. We must protect citizen's rights. Enforcement of our laws is key as it relates to noise and permitted use of property. Our environment is what makes us so special; we need to protect it. Economic Development belongs in the towns and not in the villages and rural areas.

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At-Large

DUTIES: Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans' Court in cases brought before it. The Court,

usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent. The Court is composed of 15 judges: eight at large and one each from seven appellate judicial districts.

SALARY: 168,633 annual base.

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

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

The Issues

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

DISCRIMINATION: How can the courts address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

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

Appointee

Vote Yes or No
For Continuance in Office

Donald E. Beachley

No response received by deadline.

Appointee

Vote Yes or No
For Continuance in Office

Matthew J. Fader

No response received by deadline.

Talbot County State's Attorney

DUTIES: The State's Attorney's Office is a constitutionally created independent agency. The State's Attorney is the chief prosecutor for criminal violations; and educates the public about criminal justice issues, provides training to lawyers for future service, addresses inequality and promote fairness in the criminal justice system, ensures access to the criminal justice system, promotes professional relations with judges and attorneys, and seeks to further the efficient use of criminal justice resources.

SALARY: \$113,066

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected county-wide.

The Issues

QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications for this office?

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Scott G. Patterson
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a career prosecutor, dedicated to the protection of the citizens of Talbot County. As past president of the Maryland State's Attorneys Association and vice president of the National District Attorneys Association, I have been actively involved in the training of prosecutors with the emphasis on effective, fair, and ethical prosecutions to have criminals held responsible for their crimes.
PRIORITIES: Priorities include but are not limited to: Supporting the rights of crime victims; Bringing the guilty to stand trial and sentencing for the crimes they commit; Supporting the efforts of law enforcement and public health institutions to reduce the far-reaching effects of the current opioid crisis; and Maintaining effective combat of sexual and child abuse. Overall priority: Community Safety.

Talbot County Clerk of the Circuit Court

DUTIES: The Clerk of the Circuit Court oversees the office that performs many administrative duties for the Circuit Court, including the maintenance of court records. The Clerk's office files, processes and maintains civil, criminal and juvenile actions. It also records land deeds, mortgages, plats, conveyances and other precious documents. The Clerk administers oaths to County officials, Judges and Governor appointees, issues business and marriage licenses and performs civil wedding ceremonies. The Clerk also commissions Notaries Public.

SALARY: \$109,000

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected county-wide.

The Issues

QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications for this position?

EFFICIENCY: What is needed to ensure efficient operation of the clerk's office?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Kathi Dulin Duvall
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been with the Clerk's office for over 6 years and as a Sr. Judiciary Clerk I am experienced in case management, courtroom work, land records, licensing and accounting. I have in depth training and experience the new statewide case management system referred to as MDEC. I have a strong business background with years of experience in accounting, human resources and staff management.

EFFICIENCY: Teamwork is key in a

small Clerk's office such as ours in Talbot County. Cross training is a must so that we may efficiently assist our customers. Communication and teamwork with the Judge's staff are also very important. Training and education offered by the MD Judiciary will be necessary to stay current with the ever evolving technological changes the MD Judiciary is undergoing.

Monica "DeeDee" Adkins
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been employed with Maryland Judiciary Courts for 40 years. I have worked in most areas of the court (traffic, civil, criminal, courtroom, etc). Currently I serve as a supervisor for the courts. During my tenure I have served on the Civil and Domestic Violence Committees and many training seminars.

EFFICIENCY: My mission is to "PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL AND EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE, WHILE MAKING EVERY CUSTOMER IMPORTANT". I will promote staff training that will ensure that the staff is knowledgeable, friendly and effective in the services that we provide. I will implement best practices in our processes and operations to be effective in our service rendered to the public.

Talbot County Register of Wills

DUTIES: The Register of Wills assists the general public with

administrative processes concerning estates of deceased persons. The Register collects Maryland inheritance tax on estates and probate fees; maintains all records of wills and estates of deceased persons; acts as clerk to the Orphans' Court; and safeguards wills of living persons who reside in the county.

SALARY: \$105,000

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected county-wide.

The Issues

QUALIFICATIONS: Please describe how your education and experience prepare you for the duties of this office.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: What policies would you implement to assist the public, especially low-income residents, in using the services of your office?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Patricia "Patti" E. Campen
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: My work experience has involved estate administration as well as other areas of law. I began as a paralegal/administrator in a general civil practice firm, and became a Deputy in the Office of Register of Wills in 2007. In 2013, I was fortunate to be appointed Register of Wills. This is my second election as a candidate for Register, and I am both humbled and honored to continue to serve.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: My primary goal is to provide competent, professional and helpful service to

families and friends during a difficult time. In addition, we provide an informative website (www.registers.maryland.gov) to assist our Talbot County citizens. Public computer stations are also available in the office to review estate proceedings, and staff is eager to help. Public service is my priority.

Talbot County Judge of the Orphans' Court

DUTIES: The Maryland Orphans' Court is the state's probate court. It also has jurisdiction over guardianship of minors. The Orphans' Court supervises the handling of estates of people who have died – with or without a will – while owning property in their sole name. The State Constitution does not require Orphans' Court Judges to be lawyers.

BASE SALARY: \$5,500

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected county-wide.

The Issues

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

DISCRIMINATION: How can the courts address discrimination based on race, gender, religion, disability, or poverty?

COURT NEEDS: What are the greatest needs of the Orphans' Court and how can these be addressed?

Candidates

Vote for up to 3

Paul S. Carroll
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I was honored to be elected to the Orphans' Court of Talbot County in 2014. During this four (4) year term, we have reviewed estates and helped families make decisions towards an equitable settlement per decedent's wishes. I look forward to continue serving, providing the excellent service that has been provided to our citizens by the Orphans' Court and the Office of the Register of Wills.

DISCRIMINATION: The Orphans' Court of Talbot County treats everyone equally and with respect, regardless of race, religion, disabilities, age or socio-economic level, while following the established law and precedent.

COURT NEEDS: The most recent renovations to the Courthouse, a new elevator to the courtroom and handicap accessible bathrooms, addressed our greatest building needs.

Will Howard
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: I have had nearly eight years of experience as a Judge in the Orphans' Court every week. During that time I have been able to listen carefully to many people with issues and are seeking help from the court to resolve problems with their estates. We, three judges, have the opportunity to guide them to find a solutions.

DISCRIMINATION: It is the first and foremost importance to address any discrimination whatsoever. We have never had a problem based on race, gender, religion or poverty, and each case is unique and would be handled according to the law.

COURT NEEDS: Compassion. Most of our cases are not represented by attorneys. The court handles, with kindness and understanding, each issue that needs explanation to resolve their estate issues.

David J. Wheeler
Republican Party

QUALIFICATIONS: One of the Court's responsibilities is to oversee the guardianship of the property of minors and to make sure that the deceased intent for their heirs is followed. With my extensive business background and expertise, I bring to the Court an ability to ensure that the administration and management of estates are done so appropriately and in a fiscally responsible manner.

DISCRIMINATION: By its very nature the Orphans' Court is charged with looking after the interests of individuals who might not otherwise have the resources to do so themselves. As a Judge my responsibility is to provide guardianship for these people regardless of their background or situation and to do so to the best of my ability. My record of Community involvement demonstrates this clearly.

COURT NEEDS: One of the primary needs in the Court is a proven Business and Financial acumen, both of which I possess. In order to be a true "Guardian" and provide for

the administration and oversight of an estate, a complete and current working knowledge of not only the law, but of Business and Finances is a must. When reviewing an Executor's plans/actions, you must understand what the results will be.

Philip Carey Foster
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduate of Easton High, College of Wooster & Vanderbilt Law school. Honorable discharge as a Captain in the US Army Former County Council President, State's Attorney & Delegate to MD General Assembly Completed mediation training. Former associate professor at Chesapeake College in various law related subjects. More than 4 decades in the private practice of law. Past president of the Talbot Bar.

DISCRIMINATION: Equal justice under the law must be more than a slogan – it must be a way of life in any court. It would be my intention to decide each case on its merits, without regard to such improper factors. Special attention should also be given to protect the rights of those who come before the court who are unable to hire a lawyer. Finally, each person's right to be heard should be honored.

COURT NEEDS: Each year estates totaling many millions of dollars pass before the Talbot Orphans Court. What was once a simple process has become increasingly complex. Serious legal questions are presented. As the only lawyer running for this office, and one who has handled estates, I believe that I could make a contribution to this

important work.

Joel Marcus Johnson
Democratic Party
Campaign Facebook:
<http://BishopJoelJohnson>

QUALIFICATIONS: I have served all classes of Talbot County, including its poor and disenfranchised, over a quarter-century in both church and society, with countless hours in state circuit and federal court rooms, extra-judicial hearings representing cases for legal guardianship, refugee and humanitarian causes. My gifts as cleric, bishop, and civic leader have honed my legal experience for the lay probate bench.

DISCRIMINATION: My father, an immigrant who became a judge, taught me that the black robe represents the curtain between law and bias, whether personal or institutional. The court may be the legal safe harbor against discrimination only when judges test their personal attitudes, rejecting biases inherited from generations past. Only then may judges and courts claim the high calling of equity and justice for all.

COURT NEEDS: Among democracy's best gifts, probate utterly mystifies the public. Judges need to serve as educators through seminars via mediation and legal service NPOs, helping families to prepare themselves not only for eventual property and inheritance issues, but for using their assets in ways which promote quality of life well in advance of the loss of loved ones. Probate may assist a family's future.

Talbot County Sheriff

DUTIES: The Sheriff's Office is a full-function law enforcement agency which operates throughout the county. Public safety activities include law enforcement and all related activities to support investigations of either a traffic or criminal nature, including accident investigation, monitoring sex offenders, traffic safety programs, narcotics investigations, protective measures for domestic violence, and the investigation of all serious or reported crimes. Its civil component acts as an officer of the circuit court, carrying out court orders, including evictions; delivering summonses; and executing bench warrants. It also provides management of and security for courthouse operations.

SALARY: \$81,954

TERM: Four years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected county-wide.

The Issues

QUALIFICATIONS: Please describe how your education and experience prepare you for the duties of this office.

PRIORITIES: What should the top three priority areas of law enforcement be in the County and why?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies would you pursue to avoid racial discrimination in law enforcement?

Candidates

Vote for 1

Joseph Gamble
Republican Party

Campaign Facebook: [http://Re-elect Joe Gamble for Talbot County Sheriff](http://Re-elect-Joe-Gamble-for-Talbot-County-Sheriff)

QUALIFICATIONS: I spent 27 years with the Maryland State Police where I worked as a uniformed patrol trooper, undercover drug investigator, criminal investigator and the state wide Commander of the Homicide Investigation Unit. During those years I worked violent crime, homicides and police involved shootings in nearly every county in Maryland. I am currently serving as sheriff for Talbot County Maryland.

PRIORITIES: 1) School Resource officers now in the middle and high schools, the largest drug educational effort in county history - Talbot Goes Purple, Active Shooter Training for our schools, churches and businesses. 2) Transparency - The first Talbot Sheriff to institute a body camera program and Central Booking Facility. 3) Drug Enforcement- Reinstated the Drug Task Force, 3 new K-9 dogs, arrests up 300%

DISCRIMINATION: We are in the process of re-writing all of our policies and procedures with a certified legal policy vendor. Many of the policies when I took over were 20 plus years old and needed revised. Our new policies, procedures and training reflect the latest and most up to date policies against racial discrimination. We also instituted a body camera program for the safety of the public and the deputies

Wanda V. Green
Democratic Party

QUALIFICATIONS: The successful application and use of my skills, experience, and education have served our communities well over the years; reducing crime as a result. My formal police training on balance with effective community problem solving form the basis of what works and continues to work-being a proven and respected police leader who understands and responds to the needs of the communities we serve.

PRIORITIES: It is essential that we continue to partner and share our resources to address drug and mental health issues. Crimes of all types cascade from these and other foundations. Combined issues of traffic, school safety, domestic violence, burglaries, assault and general nuisance crimes must be addressed in an effective manner to sustain the quality of life that we enjoy. More can and should be done.

DISCRIMINATION: We must reflect the communities we serve. Shaping a police culture involves understanding who we serve-and why. Fairness, dignity, and respect must be the basic personal elements of every Deputy. There is no room or tolerance for discrimination of any form or belief. Compliance with the law and evolving policy is a mandate, not a choice. My leadership will provide this accountability.

Talbot County Board of Education

DUTIES: The Board establishes specific policies that govern school system operations and has authority over fiscal year budgets, curriculum materials, textbooks, personnel appointments, capital improvements, land acquisitions, grant applications, and other policy decisions. In addition to selecting and appointing the Superintendent of Schools, the Board also employs legal counsel and external auditors.

BASE SALARY: \$3,200

TERM: Four years.

HOW ELECTED: This is a non-partisan position. During gubernatorial elections (both primary and general), any registered voter may vote for a candidate. Only contested races (more than two candidates) appear on the primary ballot.

The Issues

BACKGROUND: Please describe how your training and experience prepare you for the duties of this office.

PRIORITIES: What are your two highest priorities and why do you choose them?

BUDGET: How would you work with the County Council to develop an education budget that meets their approval and provides adequate funding for educational excellence?

DIVERSITY: How should county schools address the diverse needs of students throughout their educational experience?

SAFETY: What changes need to occur to ensure all of our schools are safe environments for all students?

Talbot County Board of Education District 1

Candidates

Vote for 1

Otis Sampson
Nonpartisan

BACKGROUND: I have been a member of the Talbot county board of education for 3 years. I completed the board leadership program compromise of observing the Maryland state meetings, observe other school board meetings in other districts, work with Mabe committees and activities, attend courses on topics such as communication, policy development for school systems budgets, and legislative skills.

PRIORITIES: 1)Funding. The superintendent can not run the school system if there is not enough funding. 2) the board is responsible for the students attending a good safe clean environment in schools to obtain a quality education.

BUDGET: First I would have meetings with the superintendent and staff to get a budget of need to run the school district. I would then have meetings with the Talbot county council and any one I can to make sure I can obtain enough funding.

DIVERSITY: At the present time in our school district we have 20 languages spoken in our homes. Our

superintendent and staff are doing a good job handling diversity in out district. As long as she keeps doing what she is doing and the board works very close with her we will be able to stay on top of diversity in our school district.

SAFETY: First make sure all our schools have resource officers were needed. Make sure all halls have hall monitors, exit doors kept lock and make sure all classrooms have bullet proof windows in them. I realize funding would have to be obtain to make this changes. I feel alot of police presence should be at all our schools.

Talbot County Board of Education District 3

Candidates

Vote for 1

Michael Garman
Nonpartisan

BACKGROUND: Leadership is finding the right people for the right positions and empowering them with the tools they need to do their job. I have held numerous leadership positions in my years in the military and private business. I bring creative problem solving to the position of board member. I also work well in creating coalitions to address difficult issues.

PRIORITIES: Empowering teachers to empower students and making sure every student graduates with a plan. Teachers need to have the tools they need to instruct their students. No two people learn

exactly the same way and teachers must be able to reach each student to ensure their success. Also, each student must have a plan post graduation. Just graduating is not a plan that bodes well for future success.

BUDGET: The County Council is only one piece of the puzzle but they are a large piece. It is important to foster trust with Council members so we can work together as a team to improve the schools as well as the lives of the students and their families. We also must reach out to local businesses and non-profits to realize the goal of total community investment in our schools.

DIVERSITY: There is never a once-size-fits-all when it comes to education. It is crucial to find the best solutions and then implement those solutions effectively. We need to use the experience of our diverse administration and teaching staff to develop these solutions in house. This not only saves money but helps maintain the local culture in the solutions.

SAFETY: It is vital to make certain that our schools are free from external and internal threats by providing security. We have worked with local law enforcement to improve school security, but it is not only about locked doors and windows. Safety is also when students feel that they can express ideas and opinions that may run counter to the teacher or the majority of the class without fear of reprisal

Talbot County Board of Education District 4

Candidates

Vote for 1

Emily Jackson
Nonpartisan

BACKGROUND: I am a parent of young children in the Talbot County school system. School policies and procedures are not an abstract matter to me, they are an intimate part of my daily life and I can think of no one better equipped to discuss their various merits and downfalls and understand how suggested policy will affect our school population. I am also a successful small business owner in the community.

PRIORITIES: My number one priority is funding; ensuring that our schools have ample resources available to provide our children with the highest quality educational experience. My second highest priority is to ensure that the Board of Education is listening to, communicating effectively with, and working collaboratively with county teachers and administrators, parents, and community members.

BUDGET: The BOE needs to present an unyielding front to the County Council, to demand full funding for our schools. It is of utmost importance that we fund a budget that allows for growth, creativity, and "wants" of our teachers. In doing so, we will be giving the tools that are desperately needed to the people who will help our children succeed. This is not a time for

compromise and for cutting corners.

DIVERSITY: The most important step to address the varied needs of our students is to ensure there are spaces and resources for everyone at school. We need to provide teachers and administrators, who know the students best, with the resources they need to reach every student. We can do this by listening to our staff, our assets on the ground, and providing them with what they are asking for.

SAFETY: Being safe at school starts with feeling safe. Students need to feel like they belong; we need to foster a sense of community, which creates a sense of safety. The BOE needs to take responsibility for creating/enacting policies that are designed to accept, develop, and encourage all students, and to focus on policies that are positive in nature, rather than reactive, disciplinary and exclusionary.

Martha Darling Sparks
Nonpartisan

BACKGROUND: My background in accounting and finance has provided me with the knowledge needed to ask relevant questions and to understand the complexity of the Talbot County Public School's \$54.5 million-dollar budget; also the near completion of my MBA; previous service and training as a school board member; and most importantly, I am the mother of three children who attend Talbot County Public Schools.

PRIORITIES: My two highest priorities are teacher retention/turnover and fiscal accountability. Teachers are leaving

their careers for other professions at an alarming rate. I would like to not only find the reason for the exodus but address it with real solutions. I would also like more transparency regarding spending, bidding, and controls related to managing the fiscal budget on a day to day basis.

BUDGET: My goal would be to eliminate the adversarial relationship between the County Council and the Board of Education by proving to the County Council that the Board of Education has actively participated in the formulation of the budget and understands the content of the budget. This will go a long way towards demonstrating we are after more for our children than a calculation and a wish list.

DIVERSITY: To promote an inclusive educational environment, techniques that improve the discussions and the interactions of students with diverse backgrounds should be utilized. I believe that learning is enhanced when strong relationships are made between the teacher and the students and the students with each other. Open debate and respectful consideration of each other are keys to enhancing this.

SAFETY: Great communication and collaboration between the school system and local law enforcement is important to ensuring our schools are safe. Also important is for the school system to be proactive in reviewing their facilities and safety procedures on a regular basis to evaluate whether any changes should be made.

Talbot County Board of Education District 6

Candidates

Vote for 1

Robyn Allen
Nonpartisan

No response received by deadline.

Mary E. Wheeler
Nonpartisan

BACKGROUND: I received the Governor's appointment to this position in May of 2017. After being on the board for almost a year I feel I have learned a lot about what the role of a Board of Education Member should be. I also have the experience of going through one budget year to understand how our budget works and what makes up our budget. I have also developed relationships with decision makers.

PRIORITIES: My number one priority is the funding issues we are facing at state and county level. We cannot provide a quality education for our children without the proper funding and staffing. I also feel that school safety is a high priority in the current climate. Our children cannot learn if they do not feel safe while in school. We need to work with county and state to make our schools safe.

BUDGET: As a board we meet quarterly with our county council to discuss all of our issues including the budget. I have also gotten to know some of the council members on a personal basis so that we can discuss budget issues and respect

each others opinions.

DIVERSITY: Understanding diversity can only happen with training. We currently have required diversity training for staff at our schools and this training needs to be continued.

SAFETY: The need for SRO's at all of schools has to be supported financially by the county and the state. We need to upgrade the security systems and cameras at all school locations regardless of the cost. We also need to continue communication and cooperation with all parties involved in our childrens safety.

Judith A. Cornette
Write-in

BACKGROUND: I am a Speech & Language Pathologist with a Masters Degree in Education. I have worked for the past 46 years in a variety of educational settings including: Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Caroline County Public Schools, The Benedictine School and I currently have a private practice entitled Communicate!LLC. Both of my daughters graduated from TCPS and went on to successful careers.

PRIORITIES: 1. School Safety - Providing a safe environment for educational and personal development is essential for learning. 2. Supporting academic excellence through individualized instruction that addresses individual's strengths as well as their areas of challenge.

BUDGET: Short and long term planning is essential for continued growth. Discussions about essential expenses and those that support growth in the areas that will provide

for each child's success in the future are paramount. Open conversations as well as clear representations of the county's fiscal needs will expand the partnership between the County Council and TCPS.

DIVERSITY: In this scenario, the concept of diversity is not cultural differences, but learning differences. Each child should be educated according to their individual strengths/challenges. Staff require training in countywide educational programs, and also in ways to adapt those programs to meet each student's learning differences. The availability of special service and support staff is required.

SAFETY: Review and establish clear school policies, rules and consequences. Encourage transparency in reporting by being approachable and following up on all reports. Support the environmental and emotional needs of the targeted individual. Create partnerships with community resources and the families. Increase student's positive awareness of bias and diversity. Keep your eyes open and respond.

Talbot County Board of Education District 7

Candidates

Vote for 1

April Motovidlak
Nonpartisan

No response received by deadline.

Ballot Questions

Vote For the Amendment or
Vote Against the Amendment

Question 1 - Education Funding

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 357 of the 2018 Legislative Session) Requiring Commercial Gaming Revenues that are for Public Education to Supplement Spending for Education in Public Schools

BALLOT LANGUAGE: The amendment requires the Governor to include in the annual State Budget, as supplemental funding for prekindergarten through grade 12 in public schools, the revenues from video lottery operation licenses and any other commercial gaming dedicated to public education in an amount above the level of State funding for education in public schools provided by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002 (otherwise known as the Thornton legislation) in not less than the following amounts: \$125 million in fiscal year 2020; \$250 million in fiscal year 2021; \$375 million in fiscal year 2022; and 100% of commercial gaming revenues dedicated to public education in fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter. The amendment also requires the Governor to show in the annual budget how the revenues from video lottery operation licenses

and other commercial gaming are being used in a manner that is in addition to the level of State funding for public education provided by the funding formulas established by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act. The State Constitution currently authorizes video lottery operation licenses for the primary purpose of raising money for public education. (Amending Article XIX, Section 1(c)(1) and (g), and adding Section 1(f) to the Maryland Constitution)

CURRENT LAW: Maryland voters approved a constitutional amendment (Article XIX) in 2008 authorizing video lottery operations for the "primary purpose" of raising money for public education. The funds must be used to support programs in public schools, such as early childhood education, career and technical education, high school courses for college credits, training for public school teachers, improvement of school buildings, and capital projects at community colleges and state-supported colleges and universities.

PROPOSED CHANGE: This amendment would require that beginning in 2020, the Governor must include specified amounts from gambling revenues in the state budget for public education. These amounts must be in addition to any other state funding for public education and cannot be a substitute for other state revenues designated for public education. The amendment would also repeal the provision that allows gambling revenues to be used for capital projects at community colleges and

state-supported colleges and universities.

ORIGIN OF THE BALLOT

QUESTION: The 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation (SB 1122) proposing an amendment to the Maryland constitution to add more specific requirements for how gambling revenue is used in the state budget to fund public education. A bill to amend the Maryland constitution does not take effect unless it is approved by the voters at the next general election.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT:

- It ensures that gambling revenues are directed to public education as intended and approved by voters.
- It addresses concerns that the state was using gaming revenues to substitute for education funding that was already required by law, rather than increasing the total amount of education funding.
- It ensures that gaming revenues paid into the Education Trust Fund (also called a "lockbox") may be spent only in addition to other public education funding and cannot be used as a substitute for other funding that is already required by the Bridge to Excellence law.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:

- The amendment would reduce the state's flexibility to use gambling revenues for other state programs.
- The amendment would eliminate the use of gaming revenues to fund capital projects at community and public colleges.

A VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT

MEANS the state constitution would be amended to specify that revenue from gambling be used to supplement other state funding for public education and cannot be used as a substitute for other required education funding.

A VOTE AGAINST THE

AMENDMENT MEANS the current provision in the constitution would remain in effect, under which gambling revenue is used for public education but those funds may be in place of other state funding for schools.

Question 2 - Election Day Voter Registration

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 855 of the 2018 Legislative Session) Same-Day Registration and Voting at the Precinct Polling Place on Election Day

BALLOT LANGUAGE: Authorizes the General Assembly to enact legislation to allow a qualified individual to register and vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day. The current law requires voter registration to close before Election Day. (Amending Article 1, sections 1 and 2, and adding Section 2A to the Maryland constitution.)

CURRENT LAW: Maryland law requires that voter registration close 21 days before an election. An

exception allows people to register and vote in person during early voting at an Early Voting Center. They must provide proof of residence such as a driver's license or other specified identification. Under current law a person may not register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day and vote on the same day.

PROPOSED CHANGE: The Maryland constitution would be amended to authorize the legislature to pass a law permitting people to register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day and to vote on the same day.

ORIGIN OF THE BALLOT

QUESTION: The 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation (HB 532) proposing an amendment to the Maryland constitution to allow people to register to vote on Election Day and to vote the same day. A bill to amend the Maryland constitution does not take effect unless it is approved by the voters at the next general election.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT:

- Voting is a fundamental right that should not be lost due to failure to comply with a registration requirement.
- Same day registration and voting already takes place during early voting. On-the-spot validation of a voter's documentation is conducted before the voter is allowed to vote. These procedures could also be used for same day registration and voting on Election Day.
- Fourteen other states allow same day voter registration and

voting on Election Day and have not reported problems.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:

- Permitting people to register and vote on Election Day could lead to voter fraud.
- Requiring people to register in advance is not burdensome, as the registration forms are readily available.

A VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT

MEANS that the constitution would be amended to allow the legislature to enact a law permitting people to register to vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day.

A VOTE AGAINST THE

AMENDMENT MEANS that the constitution would not be amended and people would need to register to vote before Election Day.

Question A – Revenue Cap

**Charter Amendment
Revenue Cap**

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The proposed amendment to Section 614 of the Talbot County Charter would:

- Lift the cap on revenues generated by real estate taxes from 2% to 2.5% while eliminating Consumer Price Index - Urban (CPI - U) as a lesser alternative cap
- Authorize a temporary increase above the 2.5% cap of one cent (\$0.01) per one hundred dollars of assessed value in each of the four fiscal years beginning July 1, 2019; and,

- Clarify that the County's taxable base and real estate tax revenues are calculated with reference to the State's Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification.

CURRENT LAW: In 1996, Talbot County voters elected to amend Section 614 of the county charter to specify a revenue cap on income derived from taxes on property. The charter requires that this income not increase, compared with the previous year, by more than two percent, or by the CPI-U percentage of change for the latest calendar year, whichever is the lesser.

PROPOSED CHANGES: The charter would be amended to

- Raise the cap on revenue by one half of one percent (.5) to 2.5%;
- Eliminate the CPI-U as an alternative cap on revenue;
- (Updated 10/23/18)** Allow for a temporary increase above the cap on revenues derived from property taxes for each of the next four fiscal years (FY 2020 - 2023) beginning on July 1, 2019. This increase would be limited to no more than one cent (\$0.01) per \$100 of assessed value and would be authorized, as needed, on a yearly basis. This increase would be in addition to, and not in place of, any other revenue increases allowed by state law;
- Specify that the cap on revenue will pertain to properties included in the Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification prepared by the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

ORIGIN OF THE BALLOT

QUESTION: The cap on revenue is part of the Talbot County Charter, and any change requires voter approval. On July 31, 2018, the Talbot County Council enacted Resolution 262 to place a question on the 2018 general election ballot concerning the proposed changes to the cap on revenue derived from real estate taxes. A resolution to change the Charter does not take effect unless it is approved by a majority of the voters at the next general election.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE CHARTER AMENDMENT:

- The ability to increase revenues temporarily above the revenue cap would allow the County Council to fund costs anticipated for near-future capital expenses, including the new Easton elementary school and new sheriff and health department buildings.
- While county services have continued to be funded, funding has not addressed all of the needs of the county and has left departments with unfunded needs. The increase in the revenue cap will allow for county services to keep pace with fixed costs and growing needs.
- County salaries for our deputies, paramedics, and EMT personnel, are not competitive with the counties around us, costing us losses of our most valuable, trained employees to those jurisdictions. The increase in the revenue cap will help allow us to be more competitive in our region.
- The CPI-U, a national index, kept the revenue cap much

lower than 2% in six of the nine years between 2009-2017, significantly reducing the amount of revenue available for the Talbot County budget. Eliminating this alternative will help the County Council fund more of the necessary needs of the county.

- Under the Talbot County Homestead Tax Credit, there is a cap on county and municipal taxable assessment increases of 0% from one year to the next, protecting property owners by decreasing their tax liability on their primary residence against increasing property values.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE CHARTER AMENDMENT:

- Raising the revenue cap will likely lead to a rise in property taxes.
- Eliminating the CPI-U alternative revenue cap means that property values will be the sole determinant of the revenue cap. The temporary increase in revenues above the proposed revenue cap will almost certainly result in increased property taxes.

A VOTE FOR THE CHARTER

AMENDMENT MEANS the Talbot County Charter would be amended to increase the revenue cap, eliminate the CPI-U as an alternative revenue cap, provide for temporary revenue increases above the new revenue cap for the next four fiscal years, and clarify the use of the State's Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification as a reference for the revenue cap.

A VOTE AGAINST THE CHARTER AMENDMENT MEANS that the county charter will not be amended

and that the current revenue cap requirements will remain in place.



This Voters' Guide is dedicated to the memory of
Carol Valentine Kabler
Carol was an active and engaged member of the League of Women Voters for over 50 years. As a member, friend, and valued colleague, she was an example for us all.

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