



Frederick County *Voters' Guide*

2026 Midterm Primary Election
League of Women Voters of
Frederick County, Maryland

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

The League asked all candidates to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for a particular office were asked identical questions. Responses from candidates are printed exactly as submitted. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. All responses were limited to 500 characters, and any additional material was cut off at that point. If a candidate did not respond by our deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

In the Primary election, only voters registered with the Republican or Democratic parties may vote for candidates for most offices, though all voters may vote for Board of Education and some municipal offices. The deadline to update your registration to select a party affiliation is Tuesday, **June 2, 2026**.

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

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

Table of Contents

Voting Information, pages 2-5
Governor/Lt Governor, pages 5-11
Democratic Candidates, pages 5-7
Republican Candidates, pages 7-11
Comptroller pages, 11-13
Democratic Candidates, page 12
Republican Candidates, pages 12-13
Attorney General, pages 13-14
Democratic Candidates, page 14

Republican Candidates, pages 14

- U.S. Representative in Congress, District 6 15-19
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 15-18
 - Republican Candidates, pages 18-19
- State Senator, District 2, pages 20-21
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 20-21
 - Republican Candidates, page 21
- State Senator, District 3, pages 21-23
 - Democratic Candidates, page 22
 - Republican Candidates, pages 22-23
- State Senator, District 4, pages 23-24
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 23-24
 - Republican Candidates, page 24
- State Senator, District 5, pages 24-26
 - Democratic Candidates, page 5
 - Republican Candidates, pages 25-26
- Maryland House of Delegates, District 2A, pages 26-29
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 27-28
 - Republican Candidates, pages 28-29
- Maryland House of Delegates, District 3, pages 29-31
 - Democratic Candidates, page 30
 - Republican Candidates, pages 30-31
- Maryland House of Delegates, District 4, pages 31-35
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 31-33
 - Republican Candidates, pages 34-35
- Maryland House of Delegates, District 5, pages 36-40
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 36-37
 - Republican Candidates, pages 37-40
- Frederick County Executive, pages 40-42
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 40-41
 - Republican Candidates, pages 41-42
- Frederick County Council at Large, pages 43-47
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 43-46
 - Republican Candidates, page 46-47
- Frederick County Council District 1, pages 47-49
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 47-49
 - Republican Candidates, page 49
- Frederick County Council District 2, pages 50-52
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 50-51
 - Republican Candidates, page 52
- Frederick County Council District 3, pages 53-55
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 53-55
 - Republican Candidates, page 55
- Frederick County Council District 4, pages 55-57
 - Democratic Candidates, pages 56-57
 - Republican Candidates, page 57
- Frederick County Council District 5, pages 57-59
 - Democratic Candidates, page 58
 - Republican Candidates, pages 58-59

Judge of the Circuit Court – Circuit 6, page 59

State's Attorney for Frederick County, page 60
Clerk of the Circuit Court, page 61
 Democratic Candidates, page 61
 Republican Candidates, page 61
Register of Wills, page 62
 Democratic Candidates, page 62
 Republican Candidates, page 62
Judge of the Orphans Court, pages 62-64
 Democratic Candidates, pages 63-64
 Republican Candidates, page 64
Frederick County Sherrif, pages 64-68
 Democratic Candidates, pages 65-66
 Republican Candidates, pages 67-68
Democratic Central Committee members, pages 68-70
Republican Central Committee members, pages 70-75
Frederick County Board of Education, pages 75-88
Support the Guide and Join the League, page 88.

Voting Information

Early Voting

There are five Early Voting Centers in Frederick County. You can stop at any of them to cast your ballot in person during the early voting period.

Where:

1. **Libertytown VFD Activities Building**, 12027 South Street, Libertytown, MD 21762
2. **Middletown VFD Activities Bldg.**: 1 Firemans Ln, Middletown 21769
3. **Thurmont Regional Library**: 76 East Moser Rd, Thurmont 21788
4. **Trinity Recreation Center**: 6040 New Design Road, Frederick, MD 21703
5. **Urbana Regional Library**: 9020 Amelung St, Frederick 21704

When: **7:00 am to 8:00 pm** from Thursday, **June 11, 2026** through and including Thursday, **June 18, 2026**.

If you vote during Early Voting, you cannot vote by mail-in ballot or on Election Day.

By Mail

You may request that a mail-in ballot (formerly called an absentee ballot) be mailed to you or sent via an email link. Apply online or by printing out an application from the State Board of Elections website:

www.elections.maryland.gov

You can request a mail-in ballot (formerly called an absentee ballot) in these ways:

1. In person at the county Board of Elections office (8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, MD 21701)
2. Request a mail-in ballot or choose to be put on the permanent mail-in ballot list, here: www.elections.maryland.gov. You can mail your ballot back to us in the postage-paid return envelope, or you can use one of our convenient drop boxes. Ballots must be placed in a drop box or postmarked by 8:00 PM on Election Day.

An application for a mail-in ballot must be received by your local Board of Elections

- by **Tuesday, June 16, 2024**, if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax; or
- by **Friday, June 19, 2024**, if you want to download your ballot from the State's website (you must still print and mail the ballot - you cannot return it by email).

You must return your mail-in ballot in a properly addressed envelope, by:

- Mail (NEW FOR 2026: If you choose to return your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked no later than election day in order to be counted. The US Postal Service has changed its procedures for postmarking mail, so it is possible that a ballot put in the mail on election day might not be postmarked until a day or two later. On or before election day, it is best to return your ballot through a ballot drop box or at your precinct polling place.)
- Ballot dropbox (Must be dropped off by the time polls close on Election Day (See list below.)
- Hand-deliver to your precinct polling place, or to your local board of elections. You must deliver it by 8:00 PM on election day, or you may take it to an early voting center.
- Important: You cannot return your voted ballot online, by email, or fax.

Drop Box Locations

- Brunswick Middle School: 301 Cummings Drive, Brunswick, MD 21716
- Crestwood Middle School: 7100 Foxcroft Drive, Frederick, MD 21703
- Frederick County Board of Elections Office: 8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, MD 21701
- Libertytown VFD Activities Building, 12027 South Street, Libertytown, MD 21762
- Middletown VFD Activities Building: 1 Fireman's Lane, Middletown, MD 21769
- Oakdale High School: 5850 Eaglehead Drive, Ijamsville, MD 21754
- Thurmont Regional Library: 76 E. Moser Road, Thurmont, MD 21788
- Trinity Recreation Center, 6040 New Design Road, Frederick, MD 21703
- Urbana Regional Library: 9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, MD 21704
- Waverly Elementary School: 201 Waverly Drive, Frederick, MD 21703
- William R. Talley Recreation Center: 121 N. Bentz Street, Frederick, MD 21701
- Wolfsville Elementary School, 12520 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, Maryland 21773

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

ELECTION DAY VOTING

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

ELECTION INFORMATION

Don't know your polling place? Not sure if you are registered?

Visit – <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

Maryland State Board of Elections – P.O. Box 6486, Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

Phone: 1-800-222-VOTE (8683); Toll Free: 800-222-8683

Maryland Relay Service: 800-735-2258

Hours: 8 - 5 Monday - Friday.

Frederick County Board of Elections

8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, MD 21701

301-600-VOTE (8683)
ElectionBoard@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Rumors about the election?

Visit – <http://www.elections.maryland.gov> – click on the link for “Press Room” and you will see a link labeled “Rumor Control.”

Statewide Offices

Governor / Lt. Governor

DUTIES: The Governor is chief executive officer of the state and commander-in-chief of the Maryland National Guard. The Governor appoints state judges and heads of statewide departments, proposes the annual state budget to the Maryland General Assembly and may veto legislation passed by it.

The Lieutenant Governor assists the Governor, carries out specific duties assigned, and fills the office of Governor if the incumbent dies, resigns, or is incapacitated.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two consecutive terms.

SALARIES: Governor \$195,000, Lieutenant Governor \$175,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide as a team.

WEBSITE: governor.maryland.gov

Questions

AFFORDABILITY: Many Marylanders are struggling to afford basic expenses such as housing, groceries, childcare, and healthcare. What will you do to make living in Maryland more affordable?

VOTING: What strategies will you use to encourage all eligible voters to vote in every election?

HEALTHCARE: What will you do to make sure people in Maryland have prompt and timely access to needed healthcare across Maryland, including rural and inner-city communities?

ECONOMY: In light of economic uncertainties, declining federal dollars, and loss of federal jobs, what will you do to promote economic and job growth?

IMMIGRATION: Federal agents have been stopping and detaining residents in Maryland and across the nation, often using aggressive tactics. What is your position on this?

BACKGROUND: What else do you want voters to know about you?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Eric S. Felber and LaTrece Hawkins Lytes

Campaign Website: felberforgovernor.org

Campaign Email: efelber1@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 301-652-0111

AFFORDABILITY: Maryland has one of the highest cost of living and utility expenses in the US. Our campaign's priority is to fix that by capping utility fees, increase safe and affordable housing, provide affordable childcare and fix a broken medical system which allows insurance companies and private equity to charge exorbitant prices for care. We want to increase minimum wage to \$30/hr by 2030 to

make a living wage compatible with living expenses.

VOTING: We strongly encourage everyone to vote in this upcoming election. We need to vote to keep ICE and its facilities out of Maryland, recover lost jobs and businesses, and to decrease crime in the streets of our cities and suburbs. It is crucial to vote on these matters to fix them. We will campaign throughout the state posting signs and banners and educating anyone on the crucial process of voting.

HEALTHCARE: I am a physician and my lieutenant is a diabetes educator and organ transplant advocate. Our backgrounds are decades of experience in community medicine. We understand the hardships of medical care and its finances intricately. Timely access is crucial to obtain healthcare across Maryland, including rural and inner-city communities. We will put Maryland first, and do everything we can do to help people feel better and get the medical care they need.

ECONOMY: Thousands have lost their jobs and businesses. This is a top priority of our campaign. Economic and job growth is critical to a Maryland economy which has stalled for the past 10 years. We must act now to turn the economy around and restore lost jobs. Federal workers, researchers, farmers, and many others have experienced a decline in jobs. We must work together and help each other regain jobs and businesses in light of declining federal dollars and economic uncertainties.

IMMIGRATION: Our position is clear to remove ICE from Maryland. Our top priority is to stand behind every single person in Maryland, every immigrant, and every citizen to prevent ICE from acting on our residents. Our diversity in Maryland is what makes us great and we will not allow in any circumstances for ICE to change that. Stopping and detaining residents using aggressive tactics will not be allowed. Due process is a critical part of our Constitution and must be followed.

BACKGROUND: We will fight for abortion rights and reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental safeguards, justice reform, decrease in crime, affordable housing, increase the minimum wage, lower utility costs, free public transportation and education, and fight to remove ICE.

Wes Moore and Aruna Miller

Campaign Website: WesMoore.com

Campaign Email: carter@wesmoore.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/18UnHSZ4Sv/?mibextid=wwXifr

Campaign Phone: 4349424755

Campaign Instagram: @iamwesmoore

AFFORDABILITY: We must protect our people, drive down costs, and strengthen our state's economic competitiveness. It is our responsibility to build an economy that makes sure more Marylanders can afford to live here, buy a home, create wealth, and live a secure middle-class life. That's why we're creating jobs, building more affordable housing, and introducing legislation to combat price gouging.

VOTING: Democracy works best when everyone is involved—it doesn't matter what political party you belong to, where you live, or how you worship, we have a duty to make our voices heard. That's why we've passed legislation to protect election workers and keep ensuring Maryland's elections remain free and fair.

HEALTHCARE: Affordable, accessible, and equitable health care is the foundation on which we build everything else—from safer neighborhoods to more vibrant communities. Your zip code shouldn't determine your level of care, or if you can access it. That's why we've fought to fund rural hospitals and create quality and accessible healthcare across the state.

ECONOMY: After years of economic stagnation, we are jumpstarting Maryland's economy. In just three years, Maryland has added nearly 100,000 jobs and created over 35,000 new places of business. We will continue to pass legislation and take actions that have created jobs and helped Maryland create about 45% more new establishments each month than in 2019.

IMMIGRATION: In Maryland, we defend Constitutional rights and Constitutional policing—we will not allow untrained, unqualified, and unaccountable ICE agents to deputize our law enforcement officers. We will continue to work with federal partners to hold violent offenders accountable—while refusing to blur the lines between state and federal authority in ways that undermine the trust between law enforcement and our communities.

BACKGROUND: It is the honor of my life to serve Maryland. From creating 100,000 jobs to bringing down violent crime to record lows, we've made great progress, but the job isn't finished. I'm asking for your support to continue our mission to ensure more Marylanders can afford to live here, buy a home, create wealth, and live a secure middle-class life.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Carl A. Brunner, Jr. and Kevin L. Rhodes, Sr.

AFFORDABILITY: No response received by deadline.

VOTING: No response received by deadline.

HEALTHCARE: No response received by deadline.

ECONOMY: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

BACKGROUND: No response received by deadline.

L. D. Burkindine and Jeremy M. Shifflett

Campaign Website: www.ldburkindineforgovernor.com/

Campaign Email: larry@ldbfgov.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61588270001812

Campaign Phone: 4432202979

AFFORDABILITY: As Governor I will Establish a grant program for housing where the grant is for purchasing of housing the grant will give a person the down payment and settlement fees. Establish A CO/OP program for Farmers markets . Farmers to sell directly to the public-consumers. Childcare Facilities will be added to all Schools , parents will have freedom of choice . Establish new programs . Healthcare connection to be advanced to allow all Marylanders choice. Details provided upon written request.

VOTING: Bring truth to election process. Assuring Voters that their votes count. Voter ID is a must to insure against voter fraud.

HEALTHCARE: As Governor oversight and transparency will be on the top of the list. Healthcare connection will become the go to provider. State departments will be held accountable for non-compliance to execute claims in an... urgent manner. Day one of my administration I will declare poor healthcare a state of emergency. Providing Executive order fixing the problem. First

ECONOMY: First of all, the federal government is not our enemy. As Governor I will establish a working relationship with all federal agencies. Bring back manufacturing cut regulations to allow companies to grow. Manufacturing provides living wages. Power plants are a must. Building - Manufacturing, Power plants lead to work better paying jobs (living wages) Details upon written request

IMMIGRATION: I support all law enforcement. Maryland is one state part of The United States of America. As Governor I will reverse the newly enacted law - Bill 245/House Bill 444. Giving People drivers License's does not make them a legal citizen. Maryland cannot be a safe haven for criminals or illegal aliens. My administration will be tough on crime. Protecting and serving the people of our great state is the most important job and I am looking forward to doing just that.

BACKGROUND: I have been Businessman for over 40 years. Working harder than anyone around me, providing solutions, fixing repairing bringing people together is in my DNA. Hands on approach, Finish the job. As governor I will Be working for the people, and I will have an open-door policy.

Dan Cox and Rob Krop

AFFORDABILITY: No response received by deadline.

VOTING: No response received by deadline.

HEALTHCARE: No response received by deadline.

ECONOMY: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

BACKGROUND: No response received by deadline.

Ed Hale and Tyrone Keys, Jr.

Campaign Website: haleforgov.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/EdHaleforGovernor

Campaign Email: claytonmitchelllaw@hotmail.com

Campaign Phone: 410-406-2401

AFFORDABILITY: Maryland families are being squeezed by rising costs. I will focus on lowering energy prices by expanding reliable in state power generation, reducing regulations that drive up housing and food costs, and bringing discipline to government and public spending. Maryland should once again be a state where working families, young people, and retirees can afford to live and build a future.

VOTING: Voting should be convenient, secure, and trusted. I support early voting, clear voter information, accurate voter rolls, and strong civic education so every eligible voter knows how and when to participate. Confidence in elections and broad participation are both essential to a healthy democracy.

HEALTHCARE: Every Marylander should be able to access care when they need it. I will expand the healthcare workforce, support rural and community health centers, reduce unnecessary regulations that limit providers, and expand telemedicine. Our goal should be practical solutions that shorten wait times and bring quality healthcare closer to every community.

ECONOMY: Maryland must compete again for jobs and investment. I will reduce unnecessary regulations, support small businesses and entrepreneurs, invest in infrastructure and reliable energy, and promote industries such as technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and maritime trades. A strong economy begins with making Maryland a predictable and welcoming place to invest and work.

IMMIGRATION: Public safety must come first. Maryland should cooperate with federal authorities when dealing with individuals who are committing crimes and jeopardizing public safety. At the same time, enforcement must respect constitutional rights and due process. Cooperation focused on removing dangerous offenders helps keep communities safe while maintaining respect for the rule of law.

BACKGROUND: I am not, nor do I ever want to be a career politician. I am a longtime business leader who believes in the strength of the Maryland family and the resources and people in our state that make Maryland great. My background is rooted in the belief that our government should be small, efficient, and accountable to the taxpayers who pay for it. I am running for governor to restore opportunity, strengthen our economy, and keep Maryland a place where hard work leads to success. Help is on the Way

Douglas Larcomb and Martina D. Duncan

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/18UWhRPPQt/?mibextid=wwXIf

Campaign Email: douglaslarcome@icloud.com

Campaign Phone: 667-455-6045

Campaign Instagram:

www.instagram.com/douglaslarcombgovelectcandidate?igsh=NmVkaWhjZ3J6bW44&utm_source=qr

AFFORDABILITY: My administration's policy will support the current safety net policy with funding for Child Care Scholarship program, Housing Choice Voucher program. Maryland's Renters Tax Credit will continue. My administration brings forth a plan for State Owned Non Profit Energy for an electrical grid that will significantly reduce cost of electricity in the State through deregulation of grid operators and eminent domain. Maryland will fund a gentrification program to increase inventory in available housing

VOTING: My administration will bring about excitement through engagement including awareness advertising with regard to how important each voice is. The issues at Stake now have arrived at critical mass. I encourage all eligible voters to register daily while I engage with the Public wherever I go. Judicial Reform will bring Unity within the Inner City initiatives of Baltimore and beyond. We all have a voice with regard to key issues such as Affordability, Public Safety & now more then ever Self Defense

HEALTHCARE: The Maryland Children's Health Program which supports children and pregnant mothers will continue to be funded. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program for Seniors will continue to be funded. Medicaid for low income residents shall continue to be funded. Fund Adults and Children with Disabilities which is cut. Budget will be revisited. Money from all of the Ambitious Unsustainable spending leading to insolvency on Green Energy initiatives will be Suspended with my first Executive Order.

ECONOMY: Maryland ranks 46 in the Nation in competition with all other States for the purpose of attracting New Corporate Business. Can you believe the idiocy? There is no business acumen in this State! The State boasts a whopping 8.25% Corporate Tax Rate because of your greed via leadership who push a false narrative on a Green Energy plan. Incentivized policy of Tax Abatement on Corporate Tax for 10 years with a 2.5% Corporate Tax rate promise after will bring New Industrial and

AdvancedTechnology.

IMMIGRATION: There are approx 230,000 undoc immigrants in Maryland or 2.6% of the popul. It is mathematically impossible to deport 11 Mil. people so it was always a lie. Deporting 7,000/wk in the US equals approx 375,000 a year. The birth rate of 11 Mil. is higher than that therefore a zero sum task. My admin will create our own State registry to doc the undoc Immig. through the Gov. Office of Immig. Affairs. The St. will complete its own background checks while allowing temp in state wk permits. Not Citizen

BACKGROUND: Judicial Reform: There are NO self defense laws leaving unnecessary unprecedented power in the hands of prosecutors and judges. Reasonable Legalese Reform relieves injustice in the court. Self Defense Laws such as Reasonable Restraint, Castle Doctrine and Stand Your Ground will be enacted while placed into Maryland Code. Judicial reform will bring Unity in what is supposed to be a free state. 1.12% of Marylanders are incarcerated or on some kind of supervision. That is an oddly high number.

John A. Myrick and Brenda J. Thiam

Campaign Website: johnmyrickformdgovernor.org

Campaign Twitter: @JohnMyrickforMD

Campaign Email: john.amyrick@johnamyrickformd.org

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571896501886

Campaign Phone: 3017515651

Campaign Instagram: JohnMyrickforMD

AFFORDABILITY: By reducing State spending, and making government more efficient, we will reduce taxes and fees for Marylanders. We will cut energy costs by 50% within 4 years by re-opening plants and moving toward new nuclear technologies. This will drive down prices across the board. We will lower insurance costs, including medical malpractice insurance, which will reduce healthcare costs. We will look at ways to increase access to childcare. We will reduce regulations that drive up the cost of housing.

VOTING: Voting is the most important thing we do. We support efforts to ensure that voter rolls are current, and that all eligible voters have the chance to cast their ballots. We will work to increase the number of polling places across the State.

HEALTHCARE: By reducing malpractice insurance costs, we will drive down healthcare costs. We will seek to eliminate Plan Benefit Managers (PMBs) that inflate costs for healthcare. We will increase access to healthcare in our rural and urban communities through Public-Private Partnerships, and through working with our federal partners. We will restore the prescription drug coverage plan for State Retirees. We will negotiate with drug companies to reduce costs that the State (Medicaid) pays for medications.

ECONOMY: We will lower the Corporate Tax Rate from 8.5% to 5.0% to attract businesses to Maryland and to help those already here. We will work with the federal government to stop the hemorrhaging of federal jobs from Maryland. We will repeal the 3% Tech Tax. We will reduce burdensome regulations that stifle business development. We will attract new, good paying jobs to Maryland and provide economic opportunities for Marylanders. We will restore vocational & computer certification training to our schools

IMMIGRATION: I support cooperation with ICE. Participation in the DHS 287(g) program is vital to protecting Marylanders from criminal Unlawful Aliens and I will seek legislation making this the standard. If Maryland participates with our federal partners, not only do we enhance safety for our residents, but we eliminate the need for mass ICE deployments to find these criminal Unlawful Aliens. I also support "Plan Dignity," the most comprehensive federal immigration bill in the past 40 years.

BACKGROUND: We are Public Servants, seeking to improve the lives of EVERY Marylander. Using a common-sense approach to governing, fiscal restraint, and logic, we will restore prosperity to Maryland. We will bring accountability to Annapolis. We will reduce taxes and fees, cut energy costs, provide economic opportunity, improve our failed schools, and restore public safety for ALL Marylanders. We will never forget that we work for YOU!

Michael Oakes and Ronald W. Abend

AFFORDABILITY: Change 99%of the policies instituted in the last 4 yrs

VOTING: Already have instituted the coalition of RID. Stands for republican independent democrat.

All are welcome to vote for me to change Md for the better

HEALTHCARE: There are many plans and programs already in place. No one should be denied. If they are then they're not taking advantage of the complex systems the current government has in place.

ECONOMY: Get rid of all the ridiculous paperwork and regulations that hinder small business creation.

IMMIGRATION: The previous US administration allowed millions to enter our country illegally. If they're here illegally they need to be arrested and sent back to their home country by what ever means necessary. If they are US citizen with proper id there should not be a problem

BACKGROUND: I want to have equal representation for all. Unlike the current system where one party outnumbers all others, knows nothing about candidates, votes because there's an R I or D after the name and really doesn't care about Md. I don't accept campaign contributions because it leads to corruption. I also will not be accepting a salary. My primary goal will be electric rates reduction and a change in the property tax system

Nancy Jane Taylor and Rachel Hannah "Mohawk" Swift

Campaign Email: Lieutenantmohawkswiftcandidate@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 412-815-0983

AFFORDABILITY: WELL I HAVE AN AMAZING RESPONSES BUT I apolo.\nGize, SAMSUNG I SAID APOLOGIZE. I don't know if it's my horrible cheap Samsung or this website, but it does not copy and paste what so ever. I'm sorry. I cannot be more thorough with my responses. AS I INTENDED ORIGINALLY NOTHING whatsoever, because it will not remain on the screen. WE'RE TURNING BACK TO EMPTY FIELDS IT deletes ALL TEX as I click off this page EACH TIME you'll have to catch me on the flip side TRUST ME! U WILL HEAR OUR VOICES

VOTING: I am the best campaign strategist ever!! IT IS NOT MY FAULT THAT TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT WORK PROPERLY y DO YOU THINK I'M RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT AGAIN 2024 2026* 2028 2032AD *STATEWIDE. i received 1% of the vote in West Virginia 2326 votes! Looking at 2020 results IF CAN BE BEAT, yes SO CAN i Google REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS WV 2024 NOW MY MOTHER'S GOVERNOR TAYLOR AT THE TOP OF THE TICKET AS THE CANDIDATE. I'M JUST LIEU. SWIFT it's all about beating 2028

HEALTHCARE: Promote healthier lifestyles more socialization promote blood & living kidney donations i'm doing everything in my power 2 keep my mom out of hospital hospitalizations is not acceptable. You are NOT coming out that hospital any better than you went in this corrupt pharma health care system you are better off praying to any deity you can think of for a cure Don't give me started on how it cost if they transp u wrong! AN EXTRA \$10,000 MORE IF U HAPPENED TO GO to Carroll co hospital<NW HOSP=POISION

ECONOMY: WOW AS A RINO, the description of question indicates policy is shady at best. Wow! I do believe some people (R) missing the 2020 ECONOMY RIGHT ABOUT NOW! correct DOES NOT HAVE GOOD IDEA agree BUT BANKRUPTCY !! We WOULD NEVER HAVE never GONE INTO t CURRENT SEVERE GREAT DEPRESSION W IN THE OVAL OFFICE SO I CANNOT RETYPE UP MY GOOD RESPONSES look is MESSING UP! NO JUSTIFICATIONS, OK FOR A CHANGE, LET'S HAVE NO EGOW ♡PERSONAL GREED

IMMIGRATION: UNDER AGE CHILDREN MINORS 4-YEAR-OLDS, 8-YEAR-OLDS, 15-YEAR-OLDS BUT NOT LIMITED TO, KIDDO (R) IN CAGES LET'S SEE YOUR CHILD IN ONE THOSE U WOULD BE SCREAMING! THE KIDS COMMITTED NO CRIMES. THEY ARE UNDER EIGHTEEN. THAT IS NOT A GREEN LIGHT! For you to drop your pants again & again Sorry I do not have enough space to write again +1,200X PLEASE CALM DOWN YOUR SINFUL LUST UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES WITH JUVENILES FOR THOSE LITTLE KITTYS

BACKGROUND: Taylor gone to church all of her life SHE READS HER BIBLE EVEN AT 3AM! SHE UNDERSTANDS THE CAMEL CANNOT GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE. U DON'T NEED A SIXTY DOLLAR \$60 "CHINA BIBLE" TO TELL U THAT. FYI CORRECT She has not had any sexual activities with anyone under 18yo She ONLY HAD SEXUAL ACTIVITY w ONLY 2 MEN [NOT +1200little teen kitty] gave live births indicating birthdays included to13children SHE WILL WIN THIS ELECTION! Lieu/DAUGHTER R.SWIFT2024# is THE BEST CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST EVER

Shannon Wright and Reba A. Hawkins

Campaign Twitter: PSW4U

Campaign Website: Wright4Maryland.com

Campaign Email: wrightformaryland@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: WrightforMaryland@facebook.com

Campaign Phone: 2402425467

AFFORDABILITY: As Governor Fast-track housing for all Stabilize property taxes Expand workplace-based childcare options Strengthen Maryland's food supply chain Expand agriculture partnerships Increase access to home-based chronic-care support Fix a broken education system Cut waste, fraud, and mismanagement Support small businesses Invest in job training and apprenticeships I'll do this without raising taxes Maryland should be a place you can life, not just survive it.

VOTING: As Governor We will have year-round civic education Work with community organizations, faith leaders, and institutions Meet voters where they are Support early voting, and secure mail-in options Clear information about when and how to vote Run registration drives in underserved areas Use technology to provide reminders Strengthen trust by ensuring elections are transparent "A healthy democracy depends on participation"

HEALTHCARE: As Governor, we will Ensure every Marylander gets prompt, reliable healthcare Expand community clinics, urgent-care , and mobile health units Increase access to home-based care Strengthen partnerships with hospitals and local providers Keep essential services in underserved areas Hold insurers accountable for delays, denials, and hidden fees "When care is local, transparent, and responsive, Marylanders get help when they need it—not weeks later."

ECONOMY: As Governor We will grow our tax base Redirect resources into economic engines Cut waste, fraud, and mismanagement Strengthen small businesses with targeted investments Reduced regulatory barriers Invest in job training, apprenticeships Connect Marylanders to high-demand careers Create workforce pipelines Support rural and urban economic corridors Attract new industries "With declining federal dollars, and the loss of federal jobs, Maryland needs a Governor who will build a strong economy."

IMMIGRATION: As Governor, I will not allow Marylanders to be unprotected. I will require federal agencies to coordinate with state and local authorities before operations take place. I will demand clear protocols, clear identification, and accountability so Marylanders know their rights and know who is acting in their communities. We can support lawful enforcement without allowing intimidation or overreach. Public safety requires order and we will protect both safety and civil liberties with equal force.

BACKGROUND: I am a faith-driven leader, and strategist dedicated to strengthening Maryland's families and rebuilding trust in public institutions Known for my work at the intersection of policy, service, and empowerment. I has spent years working with parents, educators, small businesses, and local organizations to address challenges in education, healthcare access, economic mobility, and public safety. I am a wife, pastor, author, and policy advocate who authored 2 bills this session, HB1626 and HB1632

Comptroller

DUTIES: The Comptroller collects, manages, and plans for state revenues. This includes Maryland taxes on income (personal and corporate), retail sales, motor vehicle fuel, tobacco, alcohol, and estates. The Comptroller, Governor, and state Treasurer serve on the Board of Public Works, which approves major contracts for the purchase of goods and services by teh state government.

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$175,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

WEBSITE: marylandcomptroller.gov

Questions

CONTRACTS: What factors will you use, in addition to cost, to evaluate major state contracts?

TAX POLICY: Please explain what legislation affecting tax policies you will actively support for consideration in the legislature.

CHALLENGES: What are the major financial stressors that the state of Maryland will face in the coming term?

REVENUE: The Comptroller's Office issues revenue projections annually that are used to develop the budget. How do economic uncertainties affect your ability to ensure these projections are accurate?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Brooke Elizabeth Lierman

Campaign Website: brookelierman.com

Campaign Facebook: [brookelierman-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/2lKrW7WTFLGInew0IvNmuNmMpriaDXhMsfI6PII0RZtaB1ab5lgE9B-4g2jBIWsnGajA5TIdQUy715EmCzHEO5ObVqPkICVDBgKPP](https://www.facebook.com/brookelierman-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/2lKrW7WTFLGInew0IvNmuNmMpriaDXhMsfI6PII0RZtaB1ab5lgE9B-4g2jBIWsnGajA5TIdQUy715EmCzHEO5ObVqPkICVDBgKPP)

Campaign Email: jake@brookelierman.com

Campaign Phone: 4845151787

Campaign Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/brookelierman-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/29-n1wOju3FF5UdSPikLvDdALAjEZA3mfBVRkRNmHkRF-1ab5lgETbImtVSfiHrm_7mJ7QXhZ6RdimQD69NgnysIJ44ZjjuSzsLAQqm1qttOpC6GBM0V95S-0MUESAG6yfVAP4zWv62L8OGglogc8RwZXhfBnJb2q0C2Y6X0XsickPJYzvUpKXDV5oJUcmV3ndtrPPTWvF_ZyN2rMdu_KXbEvQO2dgWWIe4Jo5NS_2na_mOwjpl22KUuFgw

CONTRACTS: On the Board of Public Works, I ensure Maryland receives the best value - not just the lowest price - from every contract dollar. Beyond cost, I evaluate vendor track records, commitment to MBE goals, labor standards, local economic impact, and accountability mechanisms. I've also modernized contract spending reporting so Marylanders can see exactly how their money is being spent. Smart procurement means stronger communities and a more equitable Maryland economy.

TAX POLICY: As Comptroller, I do not set tax policy - I administer tax laws equitably and make government work better for every Marylander. I've expanded branch offices, boosted call center staff, and launched new tools to ease filing. I've championed access to Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, supported small businesses, and returned a record \$121 million in unclaimed property in FY25. I'll keep fighting for free federal tax filing so every Marylander can access the money they've earned.

CHALLENGES: Maryland faces two major financial stressors: a rising cost of living pushing residents out of state, and the unprecedented threat to federal funding - including the loss of thousands of federal jobs, cuts to grants and contracts, and reduced Medicaid, SNAP, and disaster relief. My office now publishes state-of-the-economy reports to keep policymakers and the public informed. We must be clear-eyed about what reduced federal investment means so we can build a strong financial future together.

REVENUE: Economic uncertainty is the defining challenge of revenue forecasting and today's environment is among the most volatile we've seen. Tariffs, federal cuts, inflation, and market instability all hit Maryland revenues in unpredictable ways. As Chair of the Board of Revenue Estimates, I ensured we proactively adjusted projections in December 2024 leading to a year of stable finances, and our new tax system gives us real-time visibility to better understand our financial situation.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Sonya Dunn

Campaign Twitter: <https://x.com/votesonyadunn>

Campaign Website: www.VoteSonyaDunn.com

Campaign Email: info@votesonyadunn.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/vote.sonyadunn/

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/votesonyadunn/

CONTRACTS: Primary factor: Is the company a Maryland-based firm? If not, what state resources or taxpayer support will it require to establish and maintain a presence in Maryland? Capacity building within Maryland is critical to strengthening and growing our procurement economy. State procurement dollars should support and circulate within Maryland whenever possible. Other factors include local workforce impact, compliance history, accountability, efficiency, risk management, and community engagement.

TAX POLICY: FOR: HB 392 & HB 1554 - Short term revenue loss but helps retain manufacturing jobs and reduce food deserts in Maryland. FOR: HB 1422 & SB0858 - Adds teeth to compliance unit to address repeated failed audits by state agencies. Strengthen financial management oversight of budgets and contracts. AGAINST: 2025 BRFA (Tax Changes) - 2% capital gains tax on high earners and 3% tax on IT/data services discourages investment, limits capacity building, and accelerates wealth migration from Maryland.

CHALLENGES: Budget & Revenue Shortfalls: structural deficit, slow revenue growth, federal job losses, and high-income out-migration. Economic Competitiveness: business out-migration, affordability, taxes, and inflation. Public Spending Cost: education costs, Medicaid, state pensions, and rural hospitals. Infrastructure Risks: transportation trust fund shortfalls, aging infrastructure (state buildings, water, sewer), energy transition costs, healthcare workforce, cybersecurity, and IT modernization.

REVENUE: I would be straightforward and transparent with taxpayers: Maryland is in a structural deficit. Rose-colored revenue projections create public distrust and lead to spending cuts to public and social programs. Maryland families, businesses, and communities deserve better. I plan to use conservative forecasting practices with a spectrum of investment risk profiles. Build a team of reliable economists and financial analysts who evaluate risks like the migration of businesses and taxpayers.

Attorney General

DUTIES: The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of Maryland, providing legal advice to the Governor, the legislature, all state departments and 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.

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$175,000 .

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

WEBSITE: oag.maryland.gov

Questions

CIVIL RIGHTS: What do you see as the greatest threat to Marylanders' civil rights, and what will you do to protect them?

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Do you support initiatives, such as restorative justice practices, to reduce incarcerations and create better outcomes in the juvenile justice system?

PRIORITIES: As Attorney General, what will be your top priority areas, and how will you implement those priorities?

DISINFORMATION: Will you use the Attorney General's office to protect consumers from disinformation and fraud, including false advertising and scams? If so, how? If not, why not?

ADVOCACY: On what issues, if any, will you support bringing actions against the federal government on behalf of Marylanders?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Anthony G. Brown

CIVIL RIGHTS: No response received by deadline.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: No response received by deadline.

PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

DISINFORMATION: No response received by deadline.

ADVOCACY: No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

James B. Rutledge, III

Campaign Website: www.electjim.com

Campaign Email: jim@jimrutledge.me

Campaign Phone: 4104045833

CIVIL RIGHTS: The greatest threat to Marylanders' civil rights is the erosion of equal protection under the law — when government plays favorites, enforces laws selectively, or uses legal power as a political weapon. I will enforce civil rights protections evenhandedly, without ideology. Every Marylander, regardless of background, politics, or zip code, deserves equal justice. I am committed to uphold the MD Constitution and apply the law without partiality or prejudice as the AG's oath of office requires.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: As AG, I will focus on victim-centered justice and public safety. I support approaches that hold young offenders accountable, change the direction of their lives, protect victims, and reduce recidivism. Restorative justice can complement — but not replace — accountability. I will work with prosecutors, juvenile case workers, and community leaders to identify solutions that can actually reduce juvenile crime and create hope for our young people, who are often victims of abuse themselves.

PRIORITIES: 1) Fighting crime by supporting our State's Attorneys and law enforcement and by putting the rule of law ahead of partisan politics; 2) Thwart cyber predators by pushing cyber-crime investigations to the next level, and 3) Protect clean water and our Chesapeake Bay by investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes that harm them. I will promote the Maryland Constitution without partiality or prejudice to build confidence in our institution of law for all Marylanders, not just a favored few.

DISINFORMATION: Absolutely. Protecting Marylanders from consumer fraud, scams, and deceptive business practices is a core responsibility of the AG. I will aggressively seek to hold these predators accountable. What I will not do is use the office to punish political speech or label a political viewpoint as 'disinformation' — that path leads to censorship, which I condemn. The AG does not have the power to declare whose political opinions are acceptable. That decision is made by the voters of Maryland.

ADVOCACY: The AG should defend the people of MD when the federal government exceeds the authority granted to it by the US Constitution. The MD Constitution declares that federal laws are the Supreme Law of the State and "all the People of this State, are, and shall be bound thereby." It is a grave matter for MD to resist federal authority and sue to nullify federal law. I will make my decisions based on the facts and the law, and my allegiance to the MD Constitution, not to partisan politics.

U.S. Representative

Representative in Congress District 6

DUTIES: U.S. Representatives make laws, oversee the operations of all federal government departments and investigate issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Through impeachment, the House of Representatives can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

TERM: Two years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$174,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland is represented by eight of the 435 Representatives,

WEBSITE: www.house.gov

Questions

ELECTIONS: What laws will you support to protect election integrity and secure accurate vote counts?

IMMIGRATION: Do you support current approaches to enforcing federal immigration laws? Why or why not?

AFFORDABILITY: Many Marylanders are struggling to afford basic expenses such as housing, groceries, childcare, and healthcare. What will you do to make living in the United States more affordable?

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: What do you see as the United States' role on the world stage?

SAFETY NET: How will you safeguard social safety net programs for the most vulnerable Marylanders?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

George Gluck

ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

AFFORDABILITY: No response received by deadline.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: No response received by deadline.

SAFETY NET: No response received by deadline.

Alexis Goldstein

Campaign Twitter: bsky.app/profile/electalexis.bsky.social

Campaign Website: electalexis.org

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/ElectAlexis/

Campaign Email: contact@alexisformd.com

Campaign Phone: 240-686-5444

Campaign Instagram: instagram.com/electalexis/

ELECTIONS: I would work to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, and the Native American Voting Rights Act.

IMMIGRATION: I do not support the current approach to federal immigration enforcement. The U.S.

government is waging war against its people with the weaponization of its immigration enforcement through ICE and other agencies. I believe we need to abolish ICE, and redirect ICE funding to social safety net programs.

AFFORDABILITY: We know how to lower costs: stop subsidizing billionaires and waging forever wars. We need leaders brave enough to prioritize care: build more affordable housing, pass medicare for all, provide universal free child care, make public colleges free, enshrine the right to unionize for all workers, and cancel student debt.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: The United States should engage in diplomacy, respond to requests for help from the global community, and stop telling the rest of the world what to do. The United States should also recognize it is only one part of America – and be a good partner to our neighbors in South America, Central America, and the rest of North America.

SAFETY NET: Today, the U.S. government is waging war with its people through immigration enforcement, and war with the globe through irresponsible interventions that make the world less safe. The best way to safeguard social safety net programs is to shift our funding priorities away from forever war, and towards care. We must maintain and increase our social safety net programs.

Daniel M. Krakower

ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

AFFORDABILITY: No response received by deadline.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: No response received by deadline.

SAFETY NET: No response received by deadline.

April McClain Delaney

ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

AFFORDABILITY: No response received by deadline.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: No response received by deadline.

SAFETY NET: No response received by deadline.

David J. Trone

Campaign Website: davidtrone.com

Campaign Twitter: davidjtrone

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/davidjtrone

Campaign Email: info@davidtrone.com

Campaign Phone: (240)457-9012

Campaign Instagram: @davidjtrone

ELECTIONS: I'm committed to restoring faith and trust in our government by putting an end to voter suppression laws that harm our democracy. We can start by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and defeating harmful legislation like the SAVE Act. Throughout my time in public service, I've consistently taken on the power of special interests, worked to institute term limits and ensure we have free and fair elections, and fought to end gerrymandering and hold our elected officials accountable.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are the foundation of this country, and passing comprehensive reform measures - instead of demonizing immigrants - is critical. The current approach to enforcing immigration laws is violently inhumane. ICE has no place in Maryland, nor in our country. It is now the highest-funded US law enforcement agency by far. Astronomical growth in their budget will not lead to greater accountability, and I support measures to abolish their overreach.

AFFORDABILITY: From groceries to gas, tariffs have put an added tax on working families that have turned basic living into barely surviving. In Congress, I will work to repeal these tariffs and enact solutions that alleviate this cost burden while championing legislation that expands affordable and equitable housing, healthcare, energy, and childcare. We need to start planning for how we will rebuild and make a difference when we take back the House in 2026.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: America has always led by strengthening alliances, defending democratic values, and expanding economic opportunity. Our leadership works best when it is steady and principled. Unfortunately, tariffs, insults to allies, and a willingness to start a war without

Congressional approval have made us a laughingstock on the global stage. The vacuum of power that exists in the global economy and diplomatic arena will cause irreparable harm if we don't act quickly to stop it.

SAFETY NET: Congress has consistently failed to protect our most vulnerable neighbors from painful federal spending cuts. The devastating cuts to Medicaid are harming families everywhere. We must reverse these cuts and expand funding and coverage. Increasing taxes on the wealthy will help fill the gap. We should also reverse the \$75 billion in funding for ICE and CBP included in the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' and send that money back to Medicaid.

Ethan P. Wechtaluk

Campaign Website: www.ethanformd.com

Campaign Twitter: @EthanforMD

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/ethanformd

Campaign Email: hello@ethanformd.com

Campaign Instagram: @ethanformd

ELECTIONS: Americans deserve elections that are secure, transparent, and trusted. Require paper ballots or voter-verifiable paper records nationwide. Mandate risk-limiting audits after every federal election. Fund cybersecurity for state and local election systems. Establish national standards for ballot chain-of-custody and transparency. Implement automatic and same-day voter registration. Set national standards for timely, accurate vote counting.

IMMIGRATION: No. Our current immigration system is broken and too often targets families and long-time residents instead of focusing on real threats to public safety. We need clear legal pathways for workers and families, faster and fairer asylum processing, and enforcement that targets criminals; not people simply trying to build a life. America should have laws that are strong, fair, and humane.

AFFORDABILITY: Costs are rising because corporations and Wall Street investors have rigged the system against working families. I will fight to build more housing, pass Medicare for All to end crushing healthcare costs, enact universal childcare, and crack down on price gouging in groceries and essential goods. We must break up monopolies, stop corporate housing speculation, strengthen unions, and raise wages so families can actually afford to live.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: The United States should lead through diplomacy, cooperation, and respect for international law. Our role is to strengthen alliances, defend democracy and human rights, and work with partners to address global challenges like climate change, economic instability, and conflict. American leadership should promote peace, stability, and shared prosperity, not serve the interests of the powerful or the war machine.

SAFETY NET: The social safety net is a promise that no one should be left behind. I will protect and expand Social Security, pass Medicare for All, fully fund disability and anti-poverty programs, and invest in housing, nutrition, and childcare support. Politicians who try to cut these programs are protecting corporate wealth while families struggle. We must strengthen and modernize the safety net so it actually works for the people who depend on it.

Kiambo "Bo" White

Campaign Website: kiambowwhite.com

Campaign Email: kwhite227@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 2483207418

ELECTIONS: Voters Rights Act, Voter Registration Act, and HAVA. Bring back to the floor the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Most importantly fight the implementation of the Save Act.

IMMIGRATION: No not at all. For decades all sides have stayed to quiet about changes needed in the 21st century. The current approaches are making us less safe and will not lead to a better America in the future.

AFFORDABILITY: Education, fight for improved wages, housing/medical caps on cost and additional training resources.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: America needs to go back to when we were a true leader on the world stage. This does not mean other countries can't more resources but we all must work together to fight against those who want to divide us.

SAFETY NET: Develop relationships in the public/private sectors, fight against cuts which harm us as a whole, provide opportunities with education, skilled trades to provide other options.

A. Mark Wilks

ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

AFFORDABILITY: No response received by deadline.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: No response received by deadline.

SAFETY NET: No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Chris Burnett

Campaign Twitter: @chrisburnettcd6

Campaign Website: www.burnettforcongress.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/BurnettforCongress/

Campaign Email: vote@burnettforcongress.com

Campaign Phone: 2404037844

Campaign Instagram: burnettforcongress

ELECTIONS: As a retired Marine Corps & national-security lawyer, I will support these laws to protect election integrity: • SAVE America Act – proof of citizenship & photo ID • National Voter ID Requirement • Paper Ballot & Chain-of-Custody Standards • Mandatory Risk-Limiting Audits • Ban on Ballot Harvesting & Drop Boxes • Real-Time Voter Roll Maintenance To preserve and protect our most fundamental right, I will support these measures to ensure only citizens vote and every count is accurately counted.

IMMIGRATION: Yes. as a Marine Corps officer and lawyer, I believe in accountability, transparency, and integrity. I fully support enforcing federal immigration laws through consistent law enforcement, full accountability (for officers & violators), and transparency via public stats. This strengthens and upholds the rule of law. Change belongs in new legislation by Congress—not discretionary non-enforcement or obstruction. Enforce as written; reform properly.

AFFORDABILITY: We must address affordability through economic opportunity. My family, like many families in Western Maryland, struggles with out-of-control taxes, fees, and the rising cost of everyday goods. I will champion an Innovation Corridor to create high-paying jobs in advanced manufacturing while powering the AI economy through energy production from small modular reactors on existing industrial/commercial sites. Rebuild infrastructure, produce energy, and create jobs to drive prosperity.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: As a Marine Corps lawyer who specialized in national security and foreign policy, we must lead with confidence. We do this with peace through strength: a strong military that deters threats, defends freedom, and protects our allies. That strength brings stability, secures the trade routes that fuel American prosperity, and creates lasting peace through alliances based on mutual respect and shared values—we shape the global order to safeguard our people, our economy, and our way of life.

SAFETY NET: I will safeguard Maryland's social safety net with ironclad accountability, transparency, and integrity. I'll demand rigorous audits, real-time public spending dashboards, and swift prosecution of fraud, waste, and abuse. Every dollar must reach the most vulnerable—seniors, families, veterans, and the disabled—not bureaucrats or scammers. True compassion protects those in need by eliminating the misuse, abuse, and fraud that hurts them most.

Robin Ficker

Campaign Twitter: @robin_ficker

Campaign Website: www.voteficker.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Robin-for-Maryland-61550672608320/

Campaign Email: robinficker@msn.com

Campaign Phone: 301-919-9068

ELECTIONS: Mandatory voter ID same as required for driving, boarding an airplane, bank transactions, renting a hotel room, food stamps, welfare, unemployment, social security, for school, getting married, joining the military, or library books. Require US Citizenship to register to vote, unlike Frederick City which recently allowed non-citizens to vote in city elections. Disallow interference with voters within 100 feet of polls. Must be 18 to vote. Ensure integrity of voter machines and counting.

IMMIGRATION: U.S. allows 1 million vetted legal immigrants/year, more than any country. Keep borders secured to stop illegal immigration. The prior administration's 300,000 illegal immigrants/month, human trafficking, and fentanyl and cocaine transportation non-enforcement were outrageous. Our Democratic opponents' abolish ICE and impeachment approach is not acceptable.

AFFORDABILITY: I successfully collected 18,000 signatures each to place charter amendments to limit property tax increases and to term limit elected tax-increase specialists. Both passed voter scrutiny despite unanimous opposition from elected Democrats. I'll oppose tax increases and endorse a balanced budget. Protect Social Security and Medicare. Never vote to close the federal government as the Democrats have done. We have 35,000 federal employees and 35,000 government contractors in MD6.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: China is our greatest adversary. Maintaining stable relations is paramount. We must lead in the AI race and protect Taiwan which currently produces 90% of the world's most advanced computer chips, which are used in cars, smartphones, medical devices, computers, missile systems, and fighter jets. A Monroe doctrine-like protection is essential for the Americas. Wariness of today's Stalin—Putin—is important. Be friendly to Canada, Mexico, and Israel. Develop US rare minerals and energy.

SAFETY NET: Protect Social Security and Medicare. Oppose property and sales tax increases. Oppose deficit spending which drives up inflation, the cruelest tax of all. Emphasize a family-friendly tax code. Provide excellent constituent services with same-day responses. Set up numerous short-notice personal appts with those in need in Garrett, Allegany, Frederick, and Montgomery counties. Answer the phone with a real, live person. Support education and reading programs enabling children, to be rising stars.

Mariela Roca

Campaign Twitter: <https://x.com/rocaforcongress>

Campaign Website: rocaforcongress.com/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/rocaforcongress

Campaign Email: info@rocaforcongress.com

Campaign Phone: 240-397-6168

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/rocaforcongress

ELECTIONS: I would support legislation such as the "SAVE America Act" that will require all voters to show voter ID, proof of citizenship in order to register to vote, and no mail-in ballots, except for illness, disability, military, or travel.

IMMIGRATION: I support enforcing federal immigration laws and believe immigration enforcement should remain the responsibility of federal law enforcement agencies. At the same time, it's clear our immigration system is outdated and needs serious reform. We must secure the border, enforce the law, and modernize the legal immigration system so it works for our economy and respects the rule of law.

AFFORDABILITY: Many Marylanders are struggling because the cost of everything—from groceries to housing to energy, has gone up. I will focus on lowering cost of living by reducing inflationary spending in Washington, expanding domestic energy production to lower energy prices, and cutting unnecessary regulations that drive up the cost of housing/small business operations. We also need to support policies that strengthen the economy and create good-paying jobs so families can get ahead instead of falling behind

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: The United States should remain the strongest defender of freedom, security, and economic stability in the world. Our role on the world stage is to lead with strength, support our allies, deter our adversaries, and protect American interests. That means maintaining a strong military, promoting fair trade, and standing up to authoritarian regimes while avoiding unnecessary conflicts that put American lives at risk.

SAFETY NET: I believe our social safety net programs should protect the most vulnerable Marylanders, including seniors, people with disabilities, and families facing hardship. To safeguard these programs for the long term, we must ensure they are financially sustainable, reduce waste and fraud, and focus resources on those who truly need them. At the same time, we should promote policies that create economic opportunity so more people can achieve financial independence

General Assembly

State Senator District 2

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$56,636

HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Eric Martin Van Buren

Campaign Website: www.elect-ericvanburen.org

Campaign Email: evb@elect-ericvanburen.org

Campaign Phone: 240-469-8616

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

DATA CENTERS: As a State Senate candidate, I oppose data centers unless they meet strict, people-first standards. Our review shows they bring short-term construction jobs but few lasting ones. At a time when AI threatens 6,000 local jobs—something my opponent hasn't addressed—I'm focused on protecting workers. Any project must pass required environmental review, avoid burdening our grid and water, and deliver real, long-term benefits. If not, I won't support it.

UTILITY COSTS: In Washington County, utility costs aren't theoretical—they're crushing families. My own combined heating and electric bills are nearing \$1,000/month, and many residents near poverty can't afford one more cent. It's unacceptable that none of my opponent's legislation addresses this crisis. I've already partnered with an IT team to lower costs without new laws, and I will roll out solutions in April—because this is about survival, safety, and quality of life. This is a priority for my campaign.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Counties like Allegany, Garrett, Somerset, Dorchester, and Washington

lack reliable transit—Washington County won't stay on that list. Our transit budget is only a few million. Expanding service would cost ~\$5–10M/year. I would fund this by redirecting underused transportation funds, securing federal rural transit grants, and requiring large developments to contribute—because lack of transit is an attack on the disabled, low-income, and working families, and we will solve it.

BUDGET: Maryland's budget is ~\$60B, and Washington County should see over \$1.5B in impact. My priorities are: (1) workforce transition through dual enrollment and retraining at HCC and programs like the ARC of Washington County, (2) lowering utility and living costs, and (3) entrepreneurship and transit that connect people to jobs and help small business grow.. The reality is, bringing tens of millions more back to Washington County to fund this will require new representation that can deliver results

IMMIGRATION: As a returning citizen, I've seen systems turn on people—I've seen this before. I believe immigrant communities are necessary for the growth and sustainability of Washington County, bringing cultural strength, new perspectives, and real economic contribution. Lawful pathways to citizenship must be respected and accessible. That's my lens. The reality is, bringing resources to support strong, stable communities like this requires leadership that can deliver results in Annapolis—and I will.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Paul D. Corderman

DATA CENTERS: No response received by deadline.

UTILITY COSTS: No response received by deadline.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

State Senator District 3

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$56,636

HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Karen Lewis Young

Campaign Email: karenlewisyoung@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 2404465177

DATA CENTERS: I support data centers if they are developed responsibly. We must ensure an adequate energy supply that is not subsidized by ratepayers. We need to understand the environmental impacts (air, water, and noise). We need to ensure that their investment in the community exceeds their tax breaks. Finally, there should be strict guidelines regarding site location.

UTILITY COSTS: Poorly managed PJM that has failed to plan adequately, record profits from electricity providers, excessive demand from data centers. I am supporting the Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families Act (RELIEF).

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, we need greater investments in public transit as well as greater investments to repair our roads and bridges.

BUDGET: Expansion of Frederick Health Hospital bed capacity Family Connects Funding (home visits by a nurse 3 months after delivery) Funding for support services for individuals with disabilities

IMMIGRATION: I was a co-sponsor of the bill to eliminate the 287(g) program. Immigrants are a vital part of our economy and the vast majority are hard-working individuals who should have their rights protected.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Shelley Aloï

Campaign Website: ShelleyAloi.com

Campaign Email: ShelleyAloiforMaryland@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 301-663-9538

DATA CENTERS: I will ONLY support the establishment of data centers IF they are developed with strict adherence to local zoning and environmental protections. While they offer significant tax revenue, we cannot sacrifice the stability of our power grid or our water security. I will fight to ensure that data center developers—not County taxpayers—foot the bill for any necessary infrastructure upgrades and that these facilities are located in industrial corridors, protecting our Rural Legacy areas.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland's utility costs are skyrocketing due to over-regulation and an aggressive, top-down move to unproven energy mandates. The "all-electric" push is straining the grid and forcing families to pay more for less reliability. We must increase in-state power generation from all sources – including natural gas and nuclear – to lower rates. I will fight to review and reduce hidden "environmental surcharges" on monthly bills, and protect consumer choice in heating homes and powering businesses.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation must be efficient and fiscally responsible. While transit is vital for some, we need a balanced approach that respects taxpayers and improves safety on existing roads. As such, I support improving public transportation but oppose mandates that divert critical highway funds to underutilized transit projects. I will also fight to ensure that the Transportation Trust Fund is used for its intended purpose—infrastructure—rather than being diverted to balance the general fund.

BUDGET: My priorities are: (1) Address the \$1.5 billion deficit WITHOUT RAISING TAXES. (2) Fully fund law enforcement and ensure they have resources needed to keep our communities safe. (3) Focus on economic competitiveness, cut wasteful spending, reduce corporate tax rate to keep jobs in MD, and eliminate retirement tax. I will fight for programs that lower the cost of living for young families, ALICE households, and seniors on a fixed income so we become an affordable place to live, work, and retire.

IMMIGRATION: My grandfather, who was an immigrant, told me about American values like hard

work, following the rule of law, and assimilating to become a valued part of the community. For those who enrich our culture and workforce, I will prioritize workforce development and vocational training programs, support policies that help small-businesses so that the American Dream is accessible, and focus on fostering a robust economy where immigrants and natural-born citizens alike have the opportunity to succeed.

State Senator District 4

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$56,636

HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Website/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Lara Westdorp

Campaign Website: www.Westdorp4Senate.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/people/Westdorp4Senate/61581897233547/

Campaign Email: Lara@Westdorp4Senate.com

Campaign Phone: 301-371-8556

Campaign Instagram: Westdorp4Senate

DATA CENTERS: I signed the Data Center referendum and I support the legislation that requires a statewide study of the costs and benefits of data centers. Why? Because we need to better understand the full costs that data centers will have on our natural resources, public safety, public health, along with its impact on local taxes, energy bills, new fire equipment, training first responders, pollution monitoring, and road repairs and maintenance before we consider expanding data centers in the state.

UTILITY COSTS: Contributors to increased utility costs are data center construction, outdated electrical grids, loss of funding for alternative energy sources, and federal tariffs affecting the price of gas, oil, and electricity. We can reduce energy costs by streamlining the upgrades to existing

transmission infrastructure, use advanced transmission technologies and existing rights-of-way, and support local energy solutions, including solar and energy storage.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, we should be investing in public transportation by improving existing and building new infrastructure, and increasing the availability of trains, buses, and metro. I would also encourage greater access to the rural areas of Maryland, allowing for greater flexibility in workforce mobility and local economic development.

BUDGET: Budget Priorities; 1. Lower state taxes for everyday people. Maryland needs to find more diverse revenue options and require everyone to pay their fair share - especially corporations. 2. Livable wages for state employees and teachers. 3. Secure healthcare for all state residents. Program will fight for: 1. State bonds for district 4 capital projects 2. Land and rural preservation programs 3. Lower energy costs 4. Equality under the law for everyone 5. School funding options.

IMMIGRATION: Right now our immigration laws are not being applied in an equal, fair, or moral way, and ICE, specifically, acts like they are above the law. This needs to stop. All law enforcement personnel need to abide by the law, identify themselves, state why they are arresting someone, and provide Miranda rights. Above all, stop violating our laws by arresting people based on skin color, accent, food they are eating, or where they live. No government agency gets to choose who has Constitutional rights.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

William "Bill" Folden

Campaign Website: Senatorfolden.com

Campaign Email: Senator.folden@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/1Am3iLRcyP/

Campaign Phone: 2406747512

DATA CENTERS: I have been a vocal proponent of ensuring smart growth in Frederick County. We have not yet learned the full scale impacts of data centers and I have taken the stance to freeze any new data centers in the overlay until we learn the full impacts to our community. I would also like to see a "lockbox" established by County Executive to ensure that a set percentage of tax revenues towards Frederick County School construction, as we have many schools in need of repair or replacement.

UTILITY COSTS: Unfortunately, Maryland's move from coal fire energy plants and mandated closures by 2027, without having an adequate and sufficient replacement, has added significant strain to our grid and energy costs. We must take action now to move towards clean natural gas conversions for these old coal fire plants to create new energy opportunities and less strain on our grid, but even that is a 2-3 year project as Marylander's continue to grapple with these rising costs.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

State Senator District 5

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$56,636

HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Gary Foote

Campaign Email: gfoote3064@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 410-790-2733

DATA CENTERS: Data Centers are necessary for American national security. They generate jobs and taxpayer revenue. Having said that, it is essential that companies constructing data centers bring their own systems for generating power and provide water for cooling. This makes construction of additional data centers in Maryland impractical in many cases.

UTILITY COSTS: Data centers are part of the reason for increased costs. Part of the problem also is a delay in connecting new energy projects to the grid. We should realize that it is now cheaper to produce new clean energy than it is to start a new fossil fuel plant. And once clean energy projects are online, there are no fuel costs to worry about. There are costs associated with the transition to a clean future. Very clearly these costs should not all be borne by rate payers.

TRANSPORTATION: There should be interconnected transport systems throughout Maryland, and these systems should allow for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people without a car to get to where they need to go. Let's make towns and cities more efficient and productive and do what we can to eliminate traffic jams and frustrated travelers. Most commuters agree that the commute is the worst part of their day. Let's fix that.

BUDGET: My top priorities are health, education, and the environment. We no longer have to choose between economic growth and environmental preservation. I will fight for any program that allows for sustainability, where we are able to meet the needs of the present without compromising the survival of future generations. Maryland needs to adopt programs that improve life expectancy and life quality. Let's translate economic growth into what we really care about.

IMMIGRATION: There has been much talk concerning a moratorium on data centers. How about a moratorium on ICE facilities? I will support solutions that allow hard-working immigrants to stay in their communities and get documentation necessary for them to continue to perform critical jobs. We can be safe, welcoming and continue to grow economically. Immigrants are an essential part of any plan to make that happen.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Justin Ready

Campaign Website: www.justinready.com/

Campaign Email: info@justinready.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorReady/

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/justinready/

DATA CENTERS: Data centers have become a necessary evil due to rising demand for data, storage and new advancements in technology that everyone is using. However, before any more come to Maryland, we must have a plan for the energy and environmental protection needs. Maryland already has an energy production issue, currently importing over 40%. Additional data centers must come with regulations requiring them to generate their own energy instead of plugging into the rest of the grid.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland must invest in renewable long-term energy solutions such as nuclear and natural gas. For many years, Democrats in Annapolis have doubled down on failed energy policies – overreliance on solar and wind, plus expensive mandates on utilities to meet unrealistic ‘green-energy’ goals, which have made our state one of the most expensive for utilities. Also, stopping or at least pausing ratepayer funded programs that show up on your bill could save at least \$40 for ratepayers right away.

TRANSPORTATION: All the money generated from our extremely high gas tax, vehicle registration fees, emission fees and titling fees goes into the Transportation Trust Fund for roads and bridges, but also mass transit. Mass transit currently recovers less than 10% of its costs at the farebox – it used to be required to recoup at least 35%. That has forced the TTF to subsidize over 50% on mass transit. Given the current fiscal crisis, I can’t support expanded transit beyond the inefficient system we have now.

BUDGET: My budget priorities include advocating for fairness in local government and community college funding, opposing cuts to our developmentally disabled community, and reducing the size and spending of Maryland's government overall. We must scale back a lot of other items to prioritize what is most important, but putting the burden on working families by raising taxes and fees is unacceptable in my opinion.

IMMIGRATION: We are a nation that embraces people from all over the world. Anyone who wants to become an American and embrace our values is welcome to me. Illegal immigration subverts the process of legal immigration. I support enforcing our immigration laws compassionately, fairly but firmly. When someone is here illegally and commits additional crimes, I support local law enforcement's ability to cooperate with federal law enforcement to arrest and deport them as quickly as possible.

House of Delegates District 2A

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb site/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote up to 2.

John D. Leonard

Campaign Website: www.johndleonardformd.com

Campaign Email: JohnDarrylLeonard@protonmail.com

Campaign Phone: 2026431895

DATA CENTERS: No data centers; they waste land and energy and don't create jobs. The internet is global - there's no reason all these data centers can't be built way out in the empty brushlands where they won't harm areas where people live and work

UTILITY COSTS: Increasing demand for existing utility resources due to population growth, data centers, and escalating severe weather impacts. Utility price gouging is also a factor - the State needs to work to prevent this. We also need to grow (green) energy production, prevent data centers from sucking up our resources, and promote commercial & consumer products (heating/cooling) that are more energy-efficient.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Good public transportation is faster, cheaper, safer, and more energy-efficient than everybody sitting in stop-&-go traffic twice a day.

BUDGET: 1) Offset the unnecessary tax cuts for billionaires and corporations from the Federal BBB, at the State level. 2) Privatization and subcontracting for State services has been growing for decades - many of these companies are gouging or outright swindling us. Get them in line, or kick them to the curb. 3) In tough budget situations, ironically it is usually the smallest programs that face the harshest cuts; I will fight for our parks, our public health services, and our community services.

IMMIGRATION: I will seek to oppose, hinder, and disrupt any ICE facility construction in this state, using any and all possible legal mechanisms available to the State. I will seek to ensure that any actions taken by Federal immigration agents within these borders are done so in strict accordance to our legal and human rights as defined by State law, and that violations of these State laws result in the swift arrest and prosecution of any criminals who commit them.

Brandon Thompson

Campaign Website: bt4md.com

Campaign Email: brandon@bt4md.com

Campaign Phone: 3016601921

Campaign Instagram: @bt4md

DATA CENTERS: No. Data centers strain the power grid, consume enormous amounts of water, and deliver few local jobs relative to their footprint. Maryland should require a state permitting process that evaluates grid impact, water use, and community effects before any new facility is approved. Being "innovation-friendly" shouldn't mean handing an industry a blank check at ratepayers' expense.

UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs come from aging infrastructure, insufficient grid investment, and energy market volatility - made worse by the explosive growth of high-demand facilities like data centers driving up load. I'll support energy efficiency programs like EmPOWER, push for transparent rate-setting, and oppose cost-shifting onto residential ratepayers from commercial and industrial users who aren't paying their fair share.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Washington County residents drive long distances because alternatives don't exist yet. That's a policy failure, not a geographic inevitability. I support MARC expansion, demand-responsive rural transit, and bike/pedestrian infrastructure in communities like Hagerstown that have been deprioritized for decades. Car dependency is expensive - for families and for the state.

BUDGET: My three priorities: fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future without raiding dedicated education funds; protect Program Open Space and environmental special funds from General Fund raids; and invest in rural healthcare infrastructure and workforce. I'll oppose budget solutions that balance the books by cutting services working families in Washington and Frederick Counties depend

on.

IMMIGRATION: I've seen firsthand what immigration enforcement looks like in Washington County - I helped break the story of a converted warehouse being used as an ICE detention facility in Williamsport. I'll support state legislation protecting due process rights, oppose 287(g) programs that turn local police into immigration agents, and fight for immigrant communities' access to services they're legally entitled to.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for up to 2.

DATA CENTERS: No response received by deadline.

UTILITY COSTS: No response received by deadline.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

William Valentine

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/DelegateWilliamValentine

Campaign Email: valentine4delegate@gmail.com

DATA CENTERS: I recognize both the economic benefits and environmental impacts associated with the growth of data centers in Maryland. Data centers can create jobs and generate revenue for local governments. This revenue is often used for schools, roads and public safety. I will not support additional data centers unless, prior to construction, adequate energy and water supplies are in place and their establishment does not negatively impact agricultural land, natural resources or residential areas.

UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs in Maryland are driven by several factors, including renewable energy mandates, restrictive regulations and the closure of multiple power-generation plants prior to reliable alternatives being put into place. I support halting these mandates, focusing on creating or refitting power plants and decreasing Maryland's continued reliance on the importation of energy.

TRANSPORTATION: There is room for improvement in the availability of public transportation, and it remains a high priority for many Marylanders. However, these improvements should not come at the expense of rural counties who rely on transportation funds, derived from vehicle registration fees and fuel tax, for bridge replacements and highway improvements to ease traffic congestion and promote safe roadways in their communities.

BUDGET: I believe in fiscal restraint and strong oversight. My priority is no new tax or fee increases. This will foster economic and small business growth. Funding for much needed highway improvement projects such as I-81 and Rt.15 are at the top of my budget priorities. The developmental disability community continues to be one of my budget priorities as well, this program focuses on some of our state's most vulnerable individuals.

IMMIGRATION: I have worked with the business community and federal officials to ensure temporary foreign labor (H2A) employees are able to continue to work in Maryland legally. I support local law enforcement and their partnership with federal immigration officials when conducting investigations that focus on removing criminal offenders who are in this country illegally and who victimize our immigrant communities.

William J. Wivell

Campaign Email: Delegatewivell@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/delegatewivell

DATA CENTERS: The question of data centers is more of one involving economic development preparedness and not whether government supports the establishment of one industry over another. That is a socialist viewpoint. The role of government is to ensure that infrastructure is available to support industry. Data centers can bring their own electricity generation to the table. MD policies need to allow it. Land use policies and water supply are a local decision.

UTILITY COSTS: Escalating utility costs is a simple matter of supply & demand. MD is a net importer of 40% of its electricity. This legislative session, I introduced a bill to retrofit closed fossil fuel plants in

the State with natural gas until such time that small nuclear reactor technology can be deployed. In addition to increasing supply, MD can also reduce taxes on electricity bills — eliminate the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative & other surcharges, excise, and ad valorem taxes on utility bills.

TRANSPORTATION: An imbalance exists between the source of revenues and expenditures. The majority of Transportation Trust Fund revenues are collected from gasoline taxes while the majority of expenditures go toward mass transit. If public transportation is to be improved, it needs to pay its own way. Minimum farebox recoveries need to be restored and fare collections need to be enforced. Rural counties bear an unfair burden of the gasoline tax as they generally drive more miles to reach their destinations.

BUDGET: MD is currently on a fiscal cliff - facing a \$3.5 billion structural deficit next fiscal year. Budgets are balanced by raiding special funds (a 1x source of revenue), excessive borrowing, and passing obligations onto local governments. The spending is not sustainable. It is necessary to 1. Reduce spending levels; 2. Restore pay-go funds for capital projects; 3. Reduce borrowing levels from the current level of \$1.8 billion annually; 4. Cease passing unfunded mandates onto local govts.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration & the rule of law. I do not support individuals entering the Country illegally. My wife and I waited 2 1/2 years for the legal immigration process to work. How fair is it for someone to enter the country illegally and move to the front of the line? in addition, I signed an affidavit that she would not be a burden on the federal government for 10 years. All immigrants should be held to the same standard & supported/educated to be productive members of society.

House of Delegates District 3

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebbsite/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for up to 3.

Kris Fair

DATA CENTERS: No response received by deadline.

UTILITY COSTS: No response received by deadline.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

Ken Kerr

Campaign Website: delegatekerr.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/KenKerrDelegate/

Campaign Email: delegatekerr@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 227-253-6680

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

DATA CENTERS: I support a cautious approach to data centers preferring self supported data centers that make maximum use of solar and on-site storage that only accessing the grid between midnight and 5:00 am when demand is low.

UTILITY COSTS: Over-reliance on out-of-state providers. We need to maximize renewable sources in the short term and expand our nuclear capacity in the long term.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation needs to be appropriate for the population density of the area it serves. In Frederick, busses are most effective. However, our area would greatly benefit from increased MARC availability including midday and weekend service.

BUDGET: Healthcare, school funding, and transportation

IMMIGRATION: I have supported access to Medicaid for pregnant mothers, the ability for immigrants to purchase health insurance (with no subsidies) regardless of immigration status. I have also supported language programs teaching or practicing English with newcomers, and have advocated for policies that promote inclusivity and protect immigrant rights.

Karen Simpson

DATA CENTERS: No response received by deadline.

UTILITY COSTS: No response received by deadline.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Angela McIntosh

DATA CENTERS: No response received by deadline.

UTILITY COSTS: No response received by deadline.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

Ashley Nieves

Campaign Website: Nieves4delegate.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/nieves4delegate

Campaign Email: Nieves4delegate@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 240-344-5306

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

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring jobs and revenue, but must be developed responsibly. I support them only when properly sited, with local governments leading decisions. Projects must include infrastructure upgrades and avoid straining our power grid, raising energy costs, or depleting water resources. We can support growth without sacrificing quality of life.

UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs are driven by supply constraints, costly mandates, and lack of

reliable energy. I support natural gas, nuclear, and renewables to help solve these issues. We must modernize the grid, increase transparency, and push back on policies that raise costs without improving reliability. Families deserve dependable energy that is affordable.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation should be improved strategically. In District 3, we need better commuter routes, less congestion, expanded park-and-ride options, and regional solutions that reflect how people travel. At the same time, many residents rely on cars, so investments must support both drivers and transit users—not a one-size-fits-all approach.

BUDGET: We must prioritize responsibly. My top priorities are public safety, education with accountability, and infrastructure and energy reliability without the extensive spending Maryland has been doing the past 3 years. I will ensure first responders have resources, schools focus on outcomes, and infrastructure supports growth. I will also fight wasteful spending and oppose unnecessary tax increases.

IMMIGRATION: Legal immigrants strengthen Maryland and should have the opportunity to succeed. But the rule of law must be upheld. I oppose sanctuary policies that limit law enforcement cooperation. Officers should be supported and able to work with federal authorities. We need strong coordination to enforce laws consistently and keep communities safe.

House of Delegates District 4

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleq.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for up to 3.

Jerry Donald

Campaign Website: Donald4delegate.com

Campaign Facebook: [Donald4Delegate.com](https://www.facebook.com/Donald4Delegate.com)

Campaign Email: Jerrydonald371@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 2404055739

Campaign Instagram: Donald4delegate

DATA CENTERS: I voted AGAINST the expansion of the data centers in Frederick County. I have many environmental concerns. Economically it does someone no good if the data centers relieve taxpayers of some tax burden but then the taxpayers have a much higher electric bills. I am not in favor of expanding this in Maryland.

UTILITY COSTS: The escalation of electricity costs across the country is being driven by the electricity demands of data centers. We either have to generate more clean electricity or reduce demand.

TRANSPORTATION: In Frederick County we have gone to a free ride system and it has been a great success. It has increased ridership and helped workers who cannot drive. Improved transportation benefits all of us.

BUDGET: Education Transportation Parks and libraries

IMMIGRATION: Help them educate their children and help the adults acquire the language skills necessary to succeed in America.

Andrew Duck

Campaign Website: Duck4Delegate.org

Campaign Email: Andrew.Duck@Duck4Delegate.org

Campaign Phone: 2403445882

Campaign Instagram: Duck4Delegate

DATA CENTERS: I oppose the expansion of the data center complex in Adamstown. I encourage voters to overturn that expansion at the ballot box. The County Council decision overruled previous land use decisions, the recommendation of the Planning Board and of numerous community groups. I will not oppose every data center anywhere, but public officials need to consider the risks to the community over the life of a planned facility. For more details see:

<https://youtu.be/kCpDuAAhE8?si=ToNt6sbOpdxzpxms>

UTILITY COSTS: Electricity costs are rising due to Artificial Intelligence data centers. The federal government has cut investments in clean energy research, increasing costs. The cost of fuel, for cars or heating oil, has increased rapidly due to the war of choice in the Middle East. Telephone and cable media utilities have merged driving up costs for consumers. We must ensure anti-trust laws are enforced, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and plan for adequate utilities before additional building.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. We should increase MARC service to Frederick County and add routes to the County Transit service to Middletown. I oppose HOT lanes on I-270 – we should have two reversible HOV lanes without tolls. I support the Purple line to reduce road traffic near DC, allowing Frederick County residents to commute more efficiently. We should emphasize safety for both employees and passengers on the Metro while providing a reliable funding source.

BUDGET: Top 3 - Fund education in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, establish Maryland MEDICARE For All program, and fund the Developmental Disabilities Agency. I will also fight for funding for roads, sewer systems, and infrastructure for District 4; and address the rapid growth of our student population. To fund the budget, we must close the loopholes created at the Federal level last year. I support an Alternative Minimum Tax for people earning over \$400,000 to limit use of loopholes.

IMMIGRATION: I oppose the 287g program. Maryland should welcome immigrants into our community. Anti-immigrant efforts are trying to tear our communities apart. I believe America is like a tapestry, rather than a melting pot. Different colors are woven together to create a beautiful picture. If you try to tear a well-made tapestry, it just pulls the threads together more tightly but does not rip the fabric. American values of community and respect for our neighbors will survive our current troubles.

Paul Gilligan

Campaign Website: friendsofpaulgilligan.com

Campaign Email: paulckci@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301)693-8373

DATA CENTERS: In a limited amount and only in the right location. Self-generation of electricity has become an imperative to limit the impact on the consumer. Cost of generation needs a cost analysis and environmental impact (land, air & water). Cheaper generation and distribution methods will need

to be on the table. Dumping all cost on to the consumer is inappropriate. Cost will have to be distributed across the developers and users of the Data Centers as a cost of their development.

UTILITY COSTS: Demand is high on Maryland's electrical grid. In Frederick County the Data Centers and high electric cost are bound together. Because of the concentration of Centers in Maryland and Virginia, electrical usage from the grid has risen. This increase should be borne by the developer and business user and not sprawled across all consumers. Although the cost will filter to the consumer eventually, but as a demand for a service the consumer selects.

TRANSPORTATION: City to city interconnectors of light rail transportation is a viable system. It has the ability to move a lot of people where they live. It reduces pressure on existing roads. It will also reduce pressure for development in rural areas. This works if the rural preservation limits the urban sprawl. Populations gravitate to the convenient transportation centers i.e., urban centers.

BUDGET: Limit sprawl growth patterns for long term reduction in State cost. The most direct method to balance a budget is: 1. Elimination of any identified waste but not a reduction in services to the poor. 2. Income enhancement by capturing from wealth through income and property tax base. Careful not to apply to all income levels that would stymie economic mobility. 3. User fee enhancement but try to avoid basic service needs that impact low income.

IMMIGRATION: Most of the risk element today appears to be an out-of-control immigration service (specifically ICE). I agree with the 287g ban. The public impression is a mis-used system is quite real. The management of this system in Maryland may have merits, but the public now distrust the system. Ban the contracts and rebuild trust.

Alleria Stanley

Campaign Website: www.alleria4statedelegate.org

Campaign Email: alleria@alleria4statedelegate.org

Campaign Phone: 202-838-7503

DATA CENTERS: I support data centers only if they include ironclad protections for our grid and environment. We cannot allow District 4 residents to subsidize corporate energy costs or risk our water supply. I back a moratorium until the state's 2026 impact study is complete. New projects must be co-located with dedicated power sources and pay their fair share for infrastructure. Economic growth is vital, but it must be sustainable and never come at the expense of our community's literal power and water.

UTILITY COSTS: Costs are rising due to a supply-demand mismatch, aging infrastructure, and spikes in regional capacity prices. I will fight to ensure large-load users like data centers pay their fair share so families don't subsidize corporate growth. I support the "Lower Bills and Local Power Act" to modernize our grid with cost-saving technology and eliminate unnecessary utility profit incentives. We must prioritize transparency in rate cases and expand local energy to lower long-term costs.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Expanding public transit is essential for District 4's economy and environment. We must transform the MARC Brunswick Line into a true regional rail with all-day, weekend service to connect our workforce to hubs like DC and Frederick. I support transit-oriented development that creates walkable, affordable communities near stations. Improving transit reduces congestion on our highways, lowers emissions, and ensures that opportunity is accessible to all, regardless of car ownership.

BUDGET: My top priorities are: 1) Fully funding the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future" to ensure world-class education for every child. 2) Investing in the MARC Growth Plan to expand all-day, weekend rail service, vital for District 4's economy. 3) Protecting healthcare access for the 175,000 Marylanders at risk from federal Medicaid cuts. I will fight for programs that prioritize ratepayer fairness and social equity, ensuring our balanced budget never comes at the expense of our most vulnerable.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are essential to Maryland's economy and culture. I will support the "Maryland Trust Act" to ensure local resources aren't diverted to federal enforcement, fostering community safety for all. I will fight to expand the "Access to Care Act," ensuring all Marylanders can purchase health insurance regardless of status. By supporting workforce development and English-language programs, we empower our neighbors to thrive, strengthening District 4's businesses and communities.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for up to 3.

Jason E. Keckler

Campaign Website: JasonKeckler4Delegate.com

Campaign Email: jasonkeckler4delegate@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/FOJasonKeckler

Campaign Phone: 2406747208

DATA CENTERS: I believe data centers serve an integral role in our technological needs. That said, there are many infrastructure and environmental concerns regarding data centers that have not been adequately addressed. Additionally, our citizens have voiced their concerns and overwhelmingly oppose the data centers proposed by our local government. I do not support establishing additional data centers until comprehensive impact studies are completed. These concerns should outweigh any economic benefits.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland is a net importer of energy. The closure of several fossil-fuel power plants since 2012, without a reliable energy replacement, has been a major cause of rising costs. The addition of several energy taxes and fees has also greatly increased the cost burden on our citizens. I believe we should focus on eliminating burdensome taxes and fees and on converting closed power plants to produce natural gas and nuclear energy. We can combine renewable energy sources without unrealistic mandates.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation is important for our workforce and citizens. However, rather than focusing on expensive, inefficient large-scale mass-transit projects, it would be wiser to fund the maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure and make cost-effective upgrades. Maryland commuters, especially in rural areas, rely on automobiles for their daily transportation. It is more beneficial to shift transportation funds to improving our highways and road infrastructure to reduce congestion.

BUDGET: Maryland is facing year-over-year structural deficits due to wasteful spending. My budget priorities would be 1) Restore accountability and transparency regarding where your tax dollars are being spent and make cuts to non-essential services. 2) Reevaluate the Blueprint structure and spending mandates that are not sustainable. 3) Eliminate burdensome taxes and fees on our citizens that are driving out residents and businesses. We need to focus on private-sector growth.

IMMIGRATION: As a retired law enforcement officer in Maryland, I spent 22 years upholding the Constitution and laws of this state. I worked closely with our immigrant communities to provide outreach, education, and prevention services that fostered trust and respect. I support all Maryland residents and welcome those who choose to make Maryland their home, provided they respect our laws.

April Fleming Miller

Campaign Website: DelegateAprilMiller.com

Campaign Email: Delegate.april.miller@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram: @delegateaprilmiller

DATA CENTERS: While data centers offer economic potential, they cannot come at the expense of Maryland families. I urged the County Council not to expand the overlay zone and voted to override the Governor's veto on a comprehensive Data Center impact study. We must pause to evaluate the strain on our grid, water, schools, and land. I am sponsoring legislation for ratepayer and school protection, ensuring residents aren't forced to subsidize massive infrastructure costs required by these hyperscale campuses.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland's utility costs are skyrocketing due to Democrat's costly mandates and surging demand. The "Climate Solutions Now" act has made cost-effective energy nearly impossible by prioritizing ideology over reliability. Exponential demand from data centers is driving PJM auction prices to record highs; Maryland ratepayers should not be forced to subsidize the power for "Data Center Alley." I will fight for PJM reform protecting consumers and pivot focus toward generation, including SMR's.

TRANSPORTATION: Maryland's transportation policy desperately needs a course correction. The Purple Line is a prime example of government overreach, failing taxpayers with skyrocketing costs and delays, cutting through neighborhoods and UMD. The Red Line relaunch threatens to waste billions more, while systemic MTA audit failures reveal shameful payroll and procurement mismanagement. We cannot continue pouring money into failing transit experiments. I prioritize directing funding

toward safe roads and bridges.

BUDGET: As a common-sense conservative, my priorities are fiscal sanity and economic growth. First, I will address the Blueprint's "fiscal cliff" by requiring "must-do" reforms and eliminating the waste exposed in failed audits. Second, I'll fight to cut the tech tax, taxes and fees to improve our business climate. Finally, I'll champion energy reform - changing "Climate Solutions Now" provisions that make reliable, cost-effective power impossible. We must grow the economy, not the government.

IMMIGRATION: To support our communities, we must prioritize the rule of law and the safety of all Marylanders. My focus is on ensuring that state resources are used efficiently for residents and immigration follows the proper legal path. I oppose "sanctuary" policies that strain our local budgets and infrastructure. By focusing on a strong economy, safe neighborhoods, and high-quality schools, we create an environment where every resident has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to Maryland's future.

Jesse T. Pippy

Campaign Website: www.jessepippy.com

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

Campaign Email: jesse@jessepippy.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/JesseTPippy

DATA CENTERS: I do not support the expansion of data centers in Maryland. Data Centers consume a tremendous amount of electricity, leading to more transmission lines and higher energy costs for ratepayers. Additionally, data centers can have a negative impact on our local communities by straining the water supply, creating noise pollution and even impacting air quality. Given that our power grid is inadequate to handle such an expansion, I do not believe the economic benefits outweigh the costs.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland does not produce enough energy to meet the demand of its residents. Maryland currently imports 40% (and rising) of its energy from neighboring states at a premium cost. Additionally, rate riders (surcharge programs such as EmPOWER and Stride) that are attached to Maryland utility bills have increased the cost to ratepayers. We can provide relief to our residents by producing more energy in Maryland and placing a moratorium on any surcharges until utility rates come down.

TRANSPORTATION: Unfortunately, many types of transportation programs in Maryland need to be improved. Most counties are rural and its residents rely on Hwy projects for transportation. These projects have been placed on hold for years including in Frederick County. For the jurisdictions that rely mostly on public transportation, there needs to be a balance between the cost to maintain these programs and the need. Taxpayers cannot afford to expand public transportation while running billion-dollar deficits.

BUDGET: Maryland has had a billion plus budget deficit for two years in a row. Maryland taxpayers cannot afford to have their taxes raised again or have every fee increased, such as vehicle registrations. Taxpayers expect their government to live within its means. I would prioritize school construction, road improvements (infrastructure) and public safety. I believe these are essential government functions. Maryland needs to change its spending habits and become more affordable for its residents.

IMMIGRATION: I believe all residents that engage in Maryland commerce can contribute to the economy. I will focus on supporting policies that improve Maryland's economy by expanding our private sector, which will lead to more jobs and economic opportunities for all of Maryland's residents. As a member of the General Assembly for 8 years, I have been a strong supporter of our small businesses.

House of Delegates District 5

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Questions

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for up to 3.

Dayana Bergman

Campaign Website: www.dayanabergman.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/VoteDayanaBergmanForHouseDelegateDistrict5

Campaign Email: Info@dayanabergman.com

Campaign Phone: 410-205-9524

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/votedayanabergman

DATA CENTERS: While I understand that Data centers can bring some economical benefits to the region. I also understand the unintended consequences to the power grid, water supply, and land use. I currently do not support the additional data centers in Maryland. I prefer to wait until the Data Center study is concluded to see how the information analyzed would change my stance. I prefer making informed decisions carefully, especially when it impacts the environment and the quality of life in our communities.

UTILITY COSTS: Some of the factors contributing to the escalation of utility costs in Maryland is that we are being taken advantage. The current White House Administration is not doing its due diligence in protecting the people & keeping utility costs down. I plan on addressing this by collaborating with our Congressional representatives. I will introduce legislation to help Marylanders get lower utility rates by bringing stakeholders, community members and grassroots environmental advocates to find solutions.

TRANSPORTATION: Absolutely, access to public transportation needs to be improved and introduce throughout Maryland. It provides individuals the opportunity to hold on to their independence if they are unable to drive. It's affordable, reliable and a necessity to access services. Such as buying groceries, visiting your doctor and getting someone to and from work. Improving access to public

transportation also helps build the economy and helps revitalize communities.

BUDGET: My top three budget priorities are: 1. Public Education, in order to have thriving communities we need to provide a world class education. 2. Healthcare, we need access to quality healthcare services, make visits and medication affordable. I believe that medical providers should be affordable and accessible for all. 3. Bringing down the cost of Utilities, we need to figure out how to do everything possible to make basic necessities such as utilities expenses be affordable and accessible.

IMMIGRATION: As a first generation Cuban American immigrant, I will continue to make significant contributions wherever I reside in Maryland. I have firsthand knowledge and experience of the challenges one faces as an immigrant. I will continue to collaborate with organizations that provide services and supports to our immigrant families. Such as educational programs, access to immigration legal services for free, safe food pantries and safe access to healthcare.

Alison Rudolph

Campaign Website: www.rudolphfordelegate.com

Campaign Email: rudolphforstatedelegate@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlisonRudolphforStateDelegate

Campaign Phone: 4438982137

Campaign Instagram: @AlisonRudolphforStateDelegate

DATA CENTERS: I do not support additional data centers in Maryland at this time. We do not yet know how to offset the utility and environmental impacts to make whatever economic benefit we may gain to be worth it.

UTILITY COSTS: Data centers are absolutely driving up the cost of utilities, and those profiting most off of both the data centers and the utility companies are allowing these costs to be passed onto working Marylanders rather than impacting their profits. We need a halt to data centers until we can better understand and mitigate their impacts, and we need to see that rising utility costs are being absorbed by CEOs and upper management before being passed onto residents.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation helps to solve two of our most serious problems: Unemployment and climate change. Not having the ability to get to work is a huge issue for many who would otherwise be employed. Cutting down on exhaust and congestion while providing an affordable transportation option across the state is a win-win.

BUDGET: My top three budget priorities are education, foster care, and affordable housing. All three of these have a major impact on Maryland's children, who need to be our priority this year and every year.

IMMIGRATION: I support ending all partnerships between the state and ICE, including the location of detention centers and other facilities. ICE has proven to be an unlawful and damaging presence in communities they enter, full stop. We need to work to undo that damage their racist and violent actions have had on our immigrant community by continuing to provide supports for immigrants in Maryland.

Courtney Alexa Welch

DATA CENTERS: No response received by deadline.

UTILITY COSTS: No response received by deadline.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for up to 3.

April R. Rose

Campaign Website: www.delegateaprilrose.com

Campaign Twitter: None

Campaign Email: delegaterose@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 410-259-9824

Campaign Instagram: None

DATA CENTERS: I feel that Data Centers can provide jobs. Unfortunately, they have proven to be problematic in Carroll County due to the proposed Transmission Lines involved in the current proposal from PSEG. The taking of property to enact this plan is unacceptable. The drain on the grid is significant. Energy policies that have been enacted in Maryland over the past few years with the elimination of power plants and the focus on solar and wind have driven up the cost of everyone's bill.

UTILITY COSTS: Laws passed over the past several years have resulted in much higher utility bills for our citizens. We cannot rely on wind and solar to provide enough energy for our grid. This results in Maryland becoming an energy importer using power from other states which is expensive and is resulting in a threat to property owners in Carroll County. We need to reopen power plants, bring on new natural gas plants and support research and development of nuclear reactors.

TRANSPORTATION: We have invested too much money in public transportation as a policy in Maryland. This is at the expense of moving forward with road projects throughout the state including Carroll. Putting resources into public transit has also pulled budget dollars away from road and bridge safety. The red line is entirely too expensive and we need to stop subsidizing WMATA which has never been self sustaining.

BUDGET: We need to support the business community to generate growth and employment opportunities. We need to repeal non-business friendly legislation. We should cut the corporate income tax rate which benefits both large and the smallest of businesses. We need to repeal laws that make Maryland a very unfriendly business state. We need to address utility costs and the tax burden on families. We must become competitive in our region to provide a much better environment for business growth and jobs.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration. I appreciate the contribution of other cultures in our country. I think that there are many programs already in place to assist in the assimilation of immigrants to the US and provide the "American Dream" for everyone. I do believe we must do that legally. I would support laws that would help to streamline the pathway to legal immigration.

Sallie B. Taylor

Campaign Website: www.TaylorforDelegate.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/salliebtaylor

Campaign Email: SallieForDelegate@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (301)708-6265

DATA CENTERS: Maryland should adopt a regional approach and work with county officials to plan data centers strategically. While they create few permanent positions, these facilities can boost tax revenue and construction jobs. They are essential infrastructure for the ever developing AI economy. Noise is a concern often overlooked, but with careful planning, data centers can be located in industrial or commercial zones to minimize impacts on nearby communities.

UTILITY COSTS: Repeal the restrictions that stop us from generating our own energy. Maryland is importing power produced without the same rules while Marylanders pay skyrocketing energy bills. Reopen power plants and use every option—natural gas, nuclear, and yes, even coal.

TRANSPORTATION: Mass public transportation should be located where there is a demand and where it can be sustained by ridership ticket prices. Smaller concierge transportation services using mini buses is a good alternative for our rural areas to connect senior citizens or veterans to health care and shopping or other needs not met in their own communities. A higher priority than mass public transportation is maintaining or upgrading Maryland roads and bridges.

BUDGET: Marylanders deserve confidence that tax dollars are spent wisely through strong audits, an independent inspector general system, and public transparency. My top three budget priorities are 1) reducing taxes and fees on residents and businesses, 2) supporting public safety and first responder equipment and training, 3) investing in infrastructure, such as improving roads, assisting communities upgrade or repair their existing water systems, and school construction and repairs.

IMMIGRATION: To support immigrant communities, the focus must be on lawful entry into the country and assimilation into American society. Immigrants must learn English, understand the U.S. Constitution, and participate fully in civic and economic life. This ensures immigrants can pursue the American Dream and avoid isolation or exploitation by groups that seek to keep them separate from the broader society for their own political agendas.

Chris Tomlinson

Campaign Website: tomlinsonfordelegate.com

Campaign Email: christophertomlinson1@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChrisTomlinsonForDelegate

Campaign Phone: 4437891486

DATA CENTERS: I believe we need a temporary moratorium on new data centers in Maryland, while we consider options and strategies to mitigate their potential drain on resources – especially power and water. Ultimately, I believe data centers can be a net positive for Maryland, bringing new jobs and revenue, if the proper planning, locating, permitting, and oversight processes are put in place.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland's energy crisis is a self-inflicted result of progressive climate policies that prioritize green idealism over economic stability, energy reliability, and the needs of citizens. Forced premature retirements of coal plants and a stubborn refusal to permit even clean natural gas (the proper short-term answer) is at the heart of the problem. The only reasonable, reliable long-term answer is nuclear power.

TRANSPORTATION: I worked at the Maryland Transit Administration from 2017 to 2024 in management. I understand the importance of public transit and why it's absolutely needed in some parts of the state. Rather than ignoring the benefits of public transportation on one side, or trying to socially engineer society by pushing everyone to public transportation on the other, I seek a mixed approach, balancing the public's personal preferences with demographic and geographic realities and available financial resource.

BUDGET: My budget priorities are: 1 - to not balance the budget by raising taxes & fees. Hardworking Marylanders pay more than enough and we need to resist the government's ever-growing appetite for more funding. 2 - I'd prioritize restoring the DDA cuts. We can't balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable. 3 - the State needs to fund the many mandates inherent in Blueprint, if it continues to refuse to grant local jurisdictions the flexibility to run their own school.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration into the US, and I oppose illegal immigration, and I believe it is the duty of the government to enforce the law. Legal immigrants and immigrant communities are welcome and valued members of our state. They deserve the same support and protection as any other residents. I don't believe they need or want special treatment – just open arms and a fair shot.

Steve Whisler

Campaign Website: Whisler4Delegate.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/whisler4carroll

Campaign Email: steve.whisler68@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 4109637066

Campaign Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/steve_whisler_for_delegate/

DATA CENTERS: Data centers offer a unique opportunity to create jobs and tax revenue that can fund local government services and schools; however, I would require strict guardrails to permit their use. First, local communities, not Annapolis, should always decide where data centers are located. In addition, facilities must generate their own power with Small Module Reactors (SMRs) or other safe, approved methods. It is critical that data facilities never impact our local power grid and existing utility rates.

UTILITY COSTS: Marylanders experience very high utility bills due to unrealistic climate change policies. Sadly, a large portion (about 30%) of current utility bills include taxes and fees designed to create and deliver wind and solar projects that won't inject power into our grid for many years to come. The decision to close several power plants in recent years has forced Maryland to import about 40% of our electricity; and we will likely need to import about 80% if two other locations are forced to close.

TRANSPORTATION: Annapolis shouldn't enact more comprehensive public transportation policies statewide. Very few citizens use existing methods and we have a larger population working remotely. Allocating more funds to expand the existing grid is unwise, considering the state's financial woes. I'm very concerned that state leaders use the Transportation Trust Fund as a slush fund to move money into the General Fund to "balance the budget." I would prefer funds be provided to localities where they can use it best.

BUDGET: The growth of Maryland's budget is astonishing -- now at \$70 billion. Our governor started with a \$5 billion surplus, created a \$3 billion deficit in just two years, and enacted the largest tax and

fee increase in state history. (1) I will oppose any new tax and fee increases. (2) I will not support pushing more costs onto county governments and municipalities to "balance a budget." (3) We must reform significantly Medicaid eligibility to ensure only those who truly need it receive support.

IMMIGRATION: I definitely support immigrants that are here in Maryland legally. That said, Maryland must end misguided sanctuary policies that have attracted nearly 300,000 illegal immigrants. Our state spends over \$3 billion annually to provide them with health care, housing, education, and so much more. We must always support our state and local law enforcement to deport safely all criminal illegal aliens -- not force their release into our communities and pose a significant threat to our communities.

County Offices

Frederick County Executive

DUTIES: The County Executive directs, supervises and oversees Frederick County Government departments and agencies, establishes policies and proposes the budget.

TERM: The County Executive serves a four-year term and not more than two consecutive terms

SALARY: \$137,000, plus benefits

HOW ELECTED: Beginning in 2014 and every four years thereafter, the registered voters of the entire County shall elect a County Executive in the manner provided by law at the same time as members of the General Assembly are elected

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as County Executive?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to balance the needs of residents facing housing insecurity with the interest of housing providers?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?
6. How would you address concerns of the county's senior citizens, particularly regarding mental health services and making in-home, non-medical aide services more accessible and affordable?"

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Jessica Fitzwater

Campaign Website: www.jessicafitzwater.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/JessicaFitzwaterforFrederick

Campaign Email: info@jessicafitzwater.com

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

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as County Executive? I work every day to make Frederick County a community where everyone can live, work, and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging. I was elected County Executive after two terms

on the County Council and 16 years as a teacher, and public education is my top priority. In my first three budgets, we increased education funding by 30% and prioritized school construction and renovation. If re-elected, I will continue to work to grow our economy and tackle affordability.

2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?Data centers are the most regulated industry in the County. In 2023, I convened a Data Centers Workgroup and paused applications for new development. We created strict new standards for data centers, & proposed an overlay to prevent data center sprawl, ensure they can't be built on 99% of our land, & limit development to an area with appropriate infrastructure. County governments cannot regulate electric utilities, & I have consistently encouraged state lawmakers to act on this critical issue.

3. What legislation would you support to balance the needs of residents facing housing insecurity with the interest of housing providers?We are prioritizing building housing on County-owned land, including construction of 150 affordable homes next to the Prospect Center, with access to schools, transit, and other services. We released our Housing Strategic Plan, a data-informed roadmap for addressing the housing affordability crisis- the first in a decade. I will introduce legislation to improve our moderately priced dwelling units ordinance. We have also significantly increased funding for the Housing Initiative Fund.

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?ICE's enforcement tactics are designed to divide communities and foster division and fear. I condemn them in the strongest terms possible. I actively supported state legislation to ban 287(g) agreements between the federal government and local law enforcement. I increased grant programs which help immigrant-serving non-profit organizations, and I strengthened the County's commitment to inclusive practices in the face of unprecedented federal pressure to end such programs.

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Local governments are more important in the climate fight than ever because of the current administration's relentless efforts to rollback environmental regulations. As County Executive, I advanced our Internal Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) & released our Community CEAP. I will prioritize decarbonizing County buildings & codifying electrification measures. We will continue our focus on projects like the Prospect Center solar array and microgrid to build operational & community resilience.

6. How would you address concerns of the county's senior citizens, particularly regarding mental health services and making in-home, non-medical aide services more accessible and affordable?"We must do more to meet older residents' needs as our senior population continues to grow. As County Executive, I opened the Middletown 50+ Community Center, expanded tax credits for older residents, and launched a service coordination model designed to help seniors age in place. We're conducting a feasibility study to ensure future senior centers meet the needs of older adults now and in the future. I will continue to prioritize building new senior centers and investing in senior housing.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Diane Fouche

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as County Executive?No response received by deadline.

2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?No response received by deadline.

3. What legislation would you support to balance the needs of residents facing housing insecurity with the interest of housing providers?No response received by deadline.

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?No response received by deadline.

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?No response received by deadline.

6. How would you address concerns of the county's senior citizens, particularly regarding mental health services and making in-home, non-medical aide services more accessible and affordable?"No response received by deadline.

William J. Holtzinger

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as County Executive?I am life long resident of Frederick County and earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the U. of MD and Law Degree from Catholic University of America. I have seen the growth of Frederick and how it has not always been managed well. My experience as a Mayor, former City Engineer, and as a private sector Engineer and attorney have provided me with a unique insight into the issues with infrastructure and public services keeping pace with growth. I have 30 years experience in both professions.

2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?As with any development a thorough analysis of adequate public facilities is a bare minimum. This is particularly the case with water supply for the data centers. Likewise for the needed electric power and how the data center demands on both will impact Frederick County residents. It is far from clear that this critical analysis took place. The City of Frederick has two data center sites and this also must be factored into the water supply issue as the City depends on the County for water supply

3. What legislation would you support to balance the needs of residents facing housing insecurity with the interest of housing providers?This is a very difficult issue for the government to tackle. The County could look to work with the Housing Authority to support its efforts to address affordable housing. Incentives to builders to be able to build more affordable housing units must be balanced with maintaining adequate public facilities, which in part is what drives up the costs to build residential units. Some fast-tracking of permits could also incentivize builders to build more affordable housing units.

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?As County Executive I would focus on Local Government issues and not look to interject County Government into Federal Government actions.

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?I would continue with sound development review for stormwater management and limiting impervious area as practical. This likely has the greatest effect on limiting our impact. I would also empower permit reviewers to work those submitting for permits to use common sense to increase energy efficient homes. I do not concur with the premise/conclusion of the question. However, I do believe in maintaining sound and common sense environmental practices to limit humans' impact on the environment

6. How would you address concerns of the county's senior citizens, particularly regarding mental health services and making in-home, non-medical aide services more accessible and affordable?"Although I am very fiscally conservative this is an area where the County needs to fund better. These services are best expanded through the Health Department . This is a quasi County agency. Therefore, the County would need to work with the State of Maryland to accomplish expanding the Health Department's ability to provide these services

Local Leaders

Frederick County Council At Large

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for up to 2.

Tiffany Grant

Campaign Website: grantforfrederickcounty.com

Campaign Email: hello@grantforfrederickcounty.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/1BPHa2HouC/

Campaign Phone: (301)835-9831

Campaign Instagram: @grant4frederick

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County

Council? Losing both parents at age 18, to co-parent four siblings taught me that systems must work when families need them most; from our rural towns to our city streets. My M.A. in Forensic Psychology degree and finance career provide the tools to analyze complex risks and ensure fiscal discipline. I'll bring that urgency to the Council, prioritizing transparency and responsible growth where infrastructure is paid for first. I'll work as hard for your family's stability as I have for my own.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require? We must get this right. We've watched Northern Virginia get overrun; farmland lost, power grids strained, residents stuck with the bill. Frederick County's farmland and rural character are worth protecting. I support strict zoning that confines data centers to appropriate industrial areas. Developers must secure their own power; not

shift costs onto families and small businesses. Smart growth means protecting what makes Frederick home while ensuring we never repeat unnecessary mistakes.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?

Frederick's housing crisis hits renters hardest. Unstable housing drives poor health outcomes, disrupts children's education, and hollows out communities. I support strong displacement protections, closing developer loopholes that eliminate affordable units, and ADU zoning that works for both rural landowners and city neighborhoods. County land should house Frederick residents first. Rent stabilization has a place when families are being priced out faster than we can build.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

I know firsthand the fear of driving through your own county wondering if you'll make it home. In Frederick County, families are sheltering in place, skipping doctor's appointments, and keeping children home from school. That is a public health and community crisis. Every resident deserves dignity and safety regardless of status. I support Know Your Rights funding, safe access to county health services, school protection protocols, and real accountability for bias in local policing.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Frederick County's farms, mountains, and open landscapes are worth fighting for. Climate change is already threatening them through flooding, extreme heat, and unchecked sprawl. Once our farmland is gone, it's gone forever. I support fully implementing our Climate and Energy Action Plan, protecting Priority Preservation and Rural Legacy Areas, holding developers and polluters to strict standards, and securing federal environmental funding currently at risk. We have a duty to protect our land.

Renee Knapp

Campaign Website: www.knapp4countycouncil.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/Knapp4CountyCouncil

Campaign Email: renee@knapp4countycouncil.com

Campaign Phone: 301-874-6322

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

I became a mother at a relatively young age, and I have spent my adult life advocating and providing a support system for my autistic son. This has shaped my approach to considering how I can advocate for all residents. It took me many years and attending 5 institutions before I got my BA in Criminal Justice from Mount St. Mary's University. I learned perseverance and the importance of critical thinking, and I understand the sacrifices that many families face when pursuing higher education.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?

Through the Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay, Frederick County has created a single and finite geographical area where data centers are permitted. This prevents data center development from spreading to other regions. Frederick County should remain vigilant about enforcing this boundary. While the County does not regulate electricity consumption, we should consider offering incentives for greater energy efficiency and emerging technologies to reduce grid demand.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?

Many residents are struggling to find housing they can reasonably pay for in Frederick County, and many are finding they can't afford to stay here. This challenge requires actions that will address the needs of home owners and home renters. We need to review building and zoning codes to identify where regulations are impeding the creation of additional housing. Neighboring jurisdictions currently have rent stabilizing policies in place, under very specific conditions, that we should consider.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

To reinforce trust with immigrant communities, more jurisdictions are responding to aggressive tactics by asserting local control to establish areas where federal immigration authorities are not permitted to establish operating bases or staging areas for civil immigration enforcement. I support considering local

legislation to prohibit the use of county-owned property to be used for these purposes. Most importantly, these restrictions would not interfere with federal operations or arrests.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change? By focusing on climate resilience measures through the building of green infrastructure, Frederick County can mitigate changing and more frequent climate extremes. This focus should inform planning efforts to help manage storm water, reduce flooding, and manage heat island effects. Incorporating the use of rain gardens, permeable pavements, urban tree canopies, and green roofs in community infrastructure will protect our air quality, support biodiversity, and reduce our vulnerabilities.

Sam Newhouse

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?No response received by deadline.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?No response received by deadline.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?No response received by deadline.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?No response received by deadline.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?No response received by deadline.

Brad W. Young

Campaign Website: www.Brad-Young.com

Campaign Email: FriendsofBradYoung@yahoo.com

Campaign Phone: 240-674-0515

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

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?I am a lifelong Frederick County Resident with my children and grandchildren here also. I have owned a local business for the past 25 years and prior to that worked in community banking. I have been active in education serving on the Boards of FCC and FCPS. I teach at the Mount and have been active in the community serving on a number of non-profit boards. I am uniquely qualified through my education, and business background. I love Frederick County and serving on the Council is an honor!

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?I support controlled and regulated data center development in Frederick Co. by advocating for clear guidelines that balance economic growth with environmental and community impacts. I've worked to ensure that new data centers meet strict standards while allowing the county to benefit from the jobs and investments. I've emphasized the importance of siting data centers responsibly to minimize impacts on the county. I've helped ensure that data center growth contributes positively to the county.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?I support expanding affordable housing in Frederick County to ensure families, young professionals, and essential workers have access to safe, stable homes. We need smart, equitable growth that balances density with preserving farmland and open space. I advocate for mixed-use, transit-accessible development that provides diverse housing options while maintaining the county's character and quality of life for all residents. We recently completed a housing study that will help address the issues.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?Everyone in our community deserves to feel safe and protected, no matter their background or identity. Recent

incidents, including fatal federal shootings in Minneapolis that sparked protests and raised concerns about the use of force, show why safety and accountability must be priorities for all people especially minorities who too often feel vulnerable to excessive force and discrimination. I expect that in Frederick County we will work to make sure that every person is treated with dignity.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?I would improve sustainability in Frederick County by expanding renewable energy, promoting energy-efficient buildings, supporting public transit and bike infrastructure, and protecting farmland and natural areas. To address climate-related disasters, I would strengthen stormwater management, invest in resilient infrastructure, and support community preparedness programs, ensuring the county can adapt to flooding, extreme heat, and other climate impacts while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for up to 2.

Pamela Ciliberti

Campaign Email: pamelaciliberti@gmail.com

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?Being directly involved in the political arena for some time, I understand the workings and mechanisms of the County Council, as the legislative body and its relationship to the County Executive, the executive body in Frederick. I have been involved with my husband's campaigns which have yielded much experience.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?I am opposed to the Data Centers because they draw too heavily on our water and other resources while they seriously degrade the esthetics of our agricultural county with minimal benefit for impacted citizens. ; all with very little yield to us, as most of the energy goes/ will go to Virginia. Meanwhile citizens are currently burdened with the fiscal development costs.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?Rent stabilization is a euphemism for 'rent control'. Taxation and regulations, along with the permit process need to be reexamined and streamlined. It is currently a nightmare to obtain permits for development. I would not support rent stabilization, as part of a broader strategy.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?An undocumented immigrant is an euphemism for an illegal individual. The current focus of ICE is to remove the most dangerous among these. Their criminal actions jeopardize the safety of communities within Frederick.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Climate change is a part of an ongoing debate. The topic finds just as many people agreeing that there is climate change, as those who disagree. This includes noted climatologists. Please note that the North Pole is shrinking, as the South Pole is expanding.

Jack Felton

Campaign Email: jackfelton23@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: www.jackfelton.com

Campaign Phone: 240-586-4064

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?As the Postmaster of Walkersville, Jefferson and Mt. Airy I have an abundance of life experiences.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?I am against not have a safe plan before voting yes.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from

sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?I support affordable housing and efforts to reduce rental cost.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?Zero profiling and stopping residents who are not breaking the law.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Ensure proper funding is always available for disaster management.

Frederick County Council District 1

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for for years and no more than three consecutive terms.

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Jenn Alcorn

Campaign Website: www.jennalcorn.com

Campaign Email: jenn@jennalcorn.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/JennAlcornForFrederick

Campaign Phone: 301-748-5525

Campaign Instagram: [jennalcorn4frederick](https://www.instagram.com/jennalcorn4frederick)

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County

Council?My experience in hospitality and Human Resources, combined with more than 20 years of community involvement in Frederick County, has prepared me to serve with a collaborative, solutions focused approach. As a Leadership Frederick graduate and volunteer with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Mental Health Association, and Frederick Tourism Council, I have developed a strong understanding of community needs. Currently a college student, I continue expanding my

knowledge to serve.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?Frederick County has established regulations for data centers, including zoning limits, setbacks, environmental protections, and requirements for sufficient electrical capacity before approval. I support maintaining and strengthening these standards to ensure facilities are located in appropriate industrial areas, protect neighborhoods and the environment, and align with the county's long-term planning and infrastructure capacity while expanding the commercial tax base to ease residential taxes.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?Frederick County's Housing Needs Assessment shows we must expand housing supply and preserve affordable homes. I support policies to encourage diverse housing types in designated growth areas, strengthen workforce and affordable housing programs, and build partnerships with nonprofits and responsible developers. Local government should ensure fair protections for renters, such as clear lease terms and advance notice of rent increases, while supporting policies that maintain housing availability.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?Frederick County should ensure all residents can safely access county services, regardless of immigration status. Local government should support language access in programs and forms, provide outreach so families feel safe using health clinics, schools, and housing programs, and maintain clear policies that county services do not require disclosure of immigration status. These steps protect civil rights and strengthen trust between residents and local government.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Frederick County must strengthen sustainability by protecting farmland and natural resources, encouraging renewable energy in appropriate locations, and improving energy efficiency in county operations. Implementing the Community-Wide Climate and Energy Action Plan will help reduce emissions. To prepare for climate impacts such as flooding and stronger storms, we should improve stormwater management, protect drinking water sources, and invest in resilient infrastructure.

Louisa Conklin

Campaign Website: www.louisa4frederick.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/CountOnConklin

Campaign Email: louisa@louisa4frederick.com

Campaign Phone: 2015323072

Campaign Instagram: @CountOnConklin

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?My New Jersey public school education prepared me to graduate from Johns Hopkins with Honors ('06). I know the value of great public schools like ours, and will advocate with my full chest for a fully funded FCPS. I rented for fifteen years before I bought my first home in 2022 with my husband, and I'm ready to fight for tenant protections and affordable housing. I've used public transportation in the few major cities I've lived in for the 20 years I've worked, and still rely on the MARC.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?I am opposed to the expanded data center overlay and to the use of land within rural preservation areas to build data centers. I believe data centers should have to supply at minimum 70% of their own power via renewables. If elected to office, my first action would be to introduce legislation to reverse the approval of the expanded overlay and approve the roughly 1600 acre site recommended by the county's Planning Commission.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?Frederick County needs rent stabilization, and we also need the state to enable us to enact good cause eviction. I'm concerned that the solutions for affordable housing we will see put forward will be developer-driven and market oriented. We can

make improvements to zoning and permitting to make it faster and cheaper to build, but the county will need to play hardball to get developers to actually build the truly affordable housing our residents need. I'm prepared to hold the line on that.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?Remember what it was like during quarantine, when we couldn't leave our homes, see our friends or family outside our household, send our kids to school? We have neighbors going through that because they are worried they'll disappear, or their kids will be taken. Whatever it takes, we need to ensure our sheriff's office is compliant with the reversal of 287(g). We need to support the organizations on the ground helping immigrants, and we need to keep working on building a more humane future.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Five years ago a group of experts put together the CRRR, a roadmap for cutting greenhouse emissions by 50% of 2010 levels by 2030/100% by 2050. A follow up report, the CEAP was released last year. We have good goals and a solid plan to achieve them; what we need is follow through. We need to weave cutting emissions and cooling our cities into every county decision we make; we need to keep thinking and talking about 2050- we can't throw our long term vision away for economic expediency right now.

Eric Smothers

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?No response received by deadline.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?No response received by deadline.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?No response received by deadline.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?No response received by deadline.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Frank J. Hollewa

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?No response received by deadline.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?No response received by deadline.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?No response received by deadline.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?No response received by deadline.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?No response received by deadline.

Frederick County Council District 2

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms.

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Shelly J. Beard-Francois
Campaign Website: www.Shelly4Frederick.com
Campaign Email: Shelly4Frederick@gmail.com
Campaign Phone: 240-367-9697

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
 I’ve worked in both the private and public sectors. I worked for two labor unions, NEA MB and Union Privilege, where I supported contract negotiations, job reclassifications, and compensation reviews. I was President of the Women’s Democratic League of Frederick County, and I am a member of the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee. Across every job and position I’ve held, one theme has remained constant: serving constituents. I’m committed to bringing that same energy and responsiveness

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
 I signed the ballot against the Critical Digital Infrastructure overlay. Since data centers require significant electricity, we need to ensure that these centers demonstrate responsible energy use and minimize strain on our power grid.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
 As someone originally from NY, I have seen how rent stabilization protects working families from sudden and excessive rent increases. To counteract rising housing costs, Frederick County needs to strengthen tenant protections. I support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy if renters face sustained, steep rent increases. Local government has a responsibility to prevent displacement while expanding affordable housing, encouraging responsible development, and ensuring that long

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County? Our local government must ensure all residents feel safe accessing schools, health care, and law enforcement without fear. I support policies that clearly separate local public services from federal immigration enforcement, except in cases involving serious violent crime. Maryland recently ended 287 (g), which operated in Frederick County. At the county level, we should focus on protecting civil rights, preventing racial profiling, supporting community trust, and ensuring that county services are accessible to all.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change? Frederick County must strengthen its commitment to sustainability and climate resilience. I support protecting farmland and forests, promoting smart growth, and expanding renewable energy. We must also invest in stormwater management, flood mitigation, and strong infrastructure to address increasing extreme weather. Protecting our waterways and reducing runoff into Chesapeake Bay must remain a priority. By working with farmers, businesses, and residents, we can reduce emissions, protect natural

Jamie Shopland

Campaign Website: www.jamieshopland.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/17n7jH8yYX/

Campaign Email: Info@jamieshopland.com

Campaign Phone: 301-678-9144

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/shoplandforfrederickcounty

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

I bring policy/legal expertise, leadership in large organizations like Amtrak, and hands-on experience working with public institutions and serving on boards like the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Governing Board and the Frederick County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee. These experiences have strengthened my ability to analyze complex issues, build consensus, and collaboratively make thoughtful, data-informed decisions on behalf of Frederick County residents.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require? We're experiencing rapid technological change. Data centers are infiltrating our economy and their intense industrial use brings significant challenges our society is not ready for, particularly around land use, energy demand, water consumption, and environmental, health, and community impact. Frederick County should have limited the CDI Overlay Zone to the Planning Commission's recommendation and should have waited for the state study bill to complete its work before proceeding further.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?

I support legislation that encourages the development of diverse housing types such as smaller homes, accessory dwelling units, inclusionary zoning, and mixed-income communities so that people at different income levels have options. Streamlining permitting processes and reducing unnecessary barriers to building smaller or starter homes can help increase supply. Any rent stabilization policy should be carefully designed, data-driven, and paired with incentives to continue building new housing.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County? Protecting civil rights and ensuring fair treatment under the law for everyone must remain a priority. While immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility, local government has an important role in ensuring that local services such as schools, health services, and emergency response remain accessible to everyone. When people are afraid to seek medical care, report crimes, or send their children to school, it undermines the safety and well-being of the entire community.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change? I support expanding renewable energy, improving energy efficiency in public buildings, preserving our farmland and natural resources, and encouraging smart growth near transit that reduces sprawl and transportation emissions. Sustainability is not only about protecting the environment. It is also about protecting public health, strengthening our local economy, and ensuring that future generations can thrive in Frederick County.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Kai Burhans

Campaign Website: www.kaiburhans.com/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582406665524

Campaign Email: citizensforkaiburhans@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 240-372-6670

Campaign Instagram: [kaiburhans4countycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/kaiburhans4countycouncil)

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

I grew up in Frederick County and around municipal government. I understand the everyday struggle that our neighbors go through from balancing their at home budget and making decisions when it comes to paying the bills. My life experience as a working man and my education allows me to talk to the real life experiences our residents face daily. From paying outrageous property taxes to dealing with our poor infrastructure, I know what its like to live and work in Frederick County.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require? If we are to continue with our use of technology, then the "need" for data centers will increase. However, with the states lack of energy independence, we must slow expansion until Annapolis fixes it's energy policy. We also must not lose sight of the potential revenue and restrict its spending to our infrastructure. I also support efforts to implement SMRs, supplying clean energy while reducing the strain on the power grid. Lastly, we must ensure quality of life by allowing community input.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy? The rising cost of housing is caused by lack of supply and over regulation by local government. We must allow for a straight forward process for development that allows for a diverse set of housing options for our first time home buyers and young families while we work to maintain our infrastructure by prioritizing spending.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County? We need to reinstate 287(g) and empower local law enforcement to do their job. In 2025 ICE had over 60 targets in the western Maryland region, only 2 were located in Frederick County. That's because of the excellent job the FCSO did in keeping our streets safe. 287(g) kept ICE off the streets in Frederick County.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change? We must advocate for Small modular reactors for data centers to allow for sustainable clean energy. Push for Solar panels to be utilized in what is already "grey space" like parking lots and rooftops, keeping them off of farms. Support legislators in Annapolis who advocate for expanding our nuclear energy and keeping power plants like, Brandon Shores, online.

Dan Iampieri

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council? No response received by deadline.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County & the provision of the electric power they require? No response received by deadline.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy? No response received by deadline.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County? No response received by deadline.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change? No response received by deadline.

Frederick County Council District 3

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: : County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large..

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Christian Benford

Campaign Website: www.christianforfrederick.com/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristianBenfordforFrederick

Campaign Email: contact@christianforfrederick.com

Campaign Phone: 240-385-2347

Campaign Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/christianforfrederick>

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?I

was born and raised in Frederick County by working-class parents. My mother escaped an abusive marriage, and my father fled the civil war in El Salvador. Growing up with poverty, limited resources, and racism showed me how systems fail working people and led me to public service. I have worked in local government and organized with the Frederick Democratic Socialists of America because we are stronger when we act collectively. I hold a B.S. in Psychology and a Master of Public Administration.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?I opposed the expansion of data centers beyond the Planning Commission and staff recommendations, which also affected the Rural Legacy Area and farmland, and said so before the December 23 vote. Residents and experts are raising serious concerns about environmental impacts, infrastructure strain, and energy demand on the grid. I support limiting expansion and ensuring developers pay their fair share, both for energy and their business assets.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?Residents deserve consistent, safe, and

dignified living conditions. I am championing rent stabilization for this reason. I also want to create an affordable housing fund by establishing a countywide rental licensing program. Additionally, I want to help establish a County Housing Authority so we can provide non-market housing opportunities such as subsidized units, social housing, community land trusts, and community land banks to ensure sustained, affordable housing for generations.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?I opposed 287(g) and will continue to stand up for our community members. I propose a Frederick Community Trust Act limiting public employee cooperation with ICE, preventing unjust detention, information sharing, or transfers without judicial warrants. I will work with the Immigrant Affairs Commission to expand outreach and ensure residents have resources and support creating an immigrant affairs coordinator to increase cooperation among community partners and County government.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Our environment is our foundation. I support countywide green infrastructure initiatives such as building rain gardens and bioswales that reduce erosion and mitigate flooding, and expanding renewable, public energy, all while creating green jobs. I support expanding public garden programs and partnerships with local farmers to strengthen food access. I will hold data centers accountable through fair taxation, strong regulation, and a moratorium until an independent impact study is conducted.

Natasha Valencia

Campaign Website: natashavalencia.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582388641886

Campaign Email: info@natashavalencia.com

Campaign Instagram: Natasha Valencia For Frederick

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?As a Frederick County native and mom of four, I graduated from Frederick County Public Schools, as will my children. Former Golden Mile bakery owner, nonprofit co-founder, and community advocate, I understand the real challenges families face. My experience serving on the City of Frederick Planning and Education Commissions has strengthened my knowledge of land use, budgets, and public policy, and prepared me to work collaboratively to make thoughtful decisions for our community.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?Data centers can bring economic opportunity, but they must be carefully regulated to protect our community. I support strong, clear zoning standards and infrastructure that can support them. Developers, not taxpayers, should bear the cost of energy demand and grid upgrades. Transparency, environmental review, and community input must guide any decision regarding data center development in Frederick County.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?Frederick County is booming, as a result we are experiencing a housing gap. I'm for policies that increase housing supply, preserve existing affordable housing, and expand funding for workforce housing. Local government should encourage responsible development while protecting renters from sudden, destabilizing rent increases. Rent stabilization can be part of a broader housing strategy if it is balanced, temporary, and paired with policies that encourage new housing development.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?Local government should focus on public safety while protecting civil rights and community trust. Maryland recently ended local 287(g) partnerships. This is meant to help ensure residents feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help. I support policies that uphold due process, prevent discrimination, and ensure county services remain accessible to all residents regardless of immigration status.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Frederick County should prioritize smart growth, farmland preservation, and protection of our natural resources. I support expanding renewable energy, improving energy efficiency in county facilities, and strengthening stormwater and flood mitigation infrastructure. Preparing for extreme weather through resilient planning and infrastructure investments will protect our economy, environment, and public safety. I

want Frederick County to remain a great place to live for generations to come.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Tammie Baugher

Campaign Phone: 2402858298

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?I would say life experiences, I have lived in Frederick County for 40 plus years. I have seen alot through the years, it is just time for a change. Someone different to help make a difference and take charge for our community. The growth in our County is a little much, as we are over crowded, traffic is ridiculous almost anytime of day. Schools are over crowded, we don't even have enough teachers and or transportation for our children.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?The data center does not belong in our backyard. Our electric bills are already rising. And the data center is going to require a lot more push on our systems, that would mean continuing rising prices for electricity. They already expanded with the growth of Frederick County, and resources are definitely on a thin line in our futures.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?I have heard so much talk about affordable housing, but have not seen 1 affordable housing development yet, I sure can not afford a \$450,000.00 plus house, and yet have my neighbor through the next wall. If I could afford \$450,000.00 plus, I sure better have some land and space. Honestly on the protecting sharp increases, well the owner is paying more taxes, because that is rising as well, so then rent increases. So all this growth, is now increasing taxes and electricity, water and rent.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?Honestly, I'm sure they are trying to do their job and protect the community. My thing is do it right come into the community legally and be a law abiding citizen and enjoy the freedoms we have. If there is a crime that has been committed then they just go through the system and get transferred through ICE , if they are a undocumented immigrant. As for anyone who commits a crime no matter color, they shall be prosecuted through like anyone else.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Climate change, is everyone doing what they can to help make a difference. We have to do work together as a community and help. The Climate is changing so we must come up with planning together as a community.

Frederick County Council District 4

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Kavonte Duckett

Campaign Website: duckettforfrederick.org

Campaign Facebook: [facebook.com/duckett4frederick](https://www.facebook.com/duckett4frederick)

Campaign Email: duckett4frederick@gmail.com

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County

Council? My education and life experience have grounded me in the realities families face, and I've turned that into action on the Council. As a seventh-generation Frederick County resident, I believe deeply in stewardship: protecting what was built before us and expanding opportunity for what comes next. That's why I led efforts to keep transit fares free for residents. I remain committed to creating opportunities for future generations and making decisions that reflect the needs of our community.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require? To responsibly manage the growth of this emerging industry, I supported a targeted approach that directs data center development to appropriate areas and prevents unchecked expansion across the county. As the fastest-growing county in Maryland, we have to meet rising demands on schools, infrastructure, and services—but we have to do it the right way. That means protecting our communities, planning intentionally, and ensuring growth doesn't come at the expense of residents.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy? Housing affordability is the top concern I hear from residents. I championed the County's housing study to guide solutions and strategies to address this, and I'll continue championing policies that expand housing options, including targeted government incentives to create more affordable units. We must increase supply while protecting residents from displacement and keeping Frederick County a place people can afford to call home. Rent stabilization is one tool to help achieve that balance.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County? Frederick County is stronger because of its diversity. No one in our community should have to live in fear. Protecting the dignity, safety, and civil rights of all residents is essential to building a thriving and inclusive community. The county should continue partnering with and investing in organizations that help immigrant families and expand access to critical services. Everyone should feel safe accessing healthcare, sending their kids to school, and engaging with county services.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address

disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?Frederick County must continue investing in sustainability and climate resilience. That means investing in clean energy, protecting agricultural land and natural resources, and strengthening infrastructure to withstand extreme weather. The County is already working to improve energy efficiency in county facilities, expand transit options, and support smart growth policies. We must continue to lead in these efforts.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Chaz Packan

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?No response received by deadline.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?No response received by deadline.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?No response received by deadline.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?No response received by deadline.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?No response received by deadline.

Frederick County Council District 5

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Johnny Mercer

Campaign Website: www.manyformercer.com

Campaign Email: manyformercer@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 301-471-6014

Campaign Instagram: @mercerforthemany

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

I grew up in a working-class family and saw how deeply public institutions shape opportunity. Organizing communities across the DMV showed me that local government decisions determine whether families can afford housing, groceries, or childcare—and whether people feel represented. That work taught me to listen, build coalitions, and fight for practical solutions. On the council, I'll bring that working-class perspective and stand up for residents who don't have lobbyists speaking for them.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require? We must be cautious about these data center developments. These facilities require enormous electricity and infrastructure, and residents should not face higher utility costs or sacrifice agricultural land and forests to support them. Data centers need to be limited to appropriate industrial zones and fully account for their environmental and infrastructure impacts, with companies paying for any grid upgrades. Frederick County's long-term interests must come before short-term development greed.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy? Housing affordability is a crisis in Frederick. Rents and home prices are rising far faster than wages, pricing families out of the communities they grew up in. Local government must act when the market stops serving working people. I support stronger inclusionary housing, investment in affordable housing, and development policies that produce homes people can afford. We should also explore rent stabilization to prevent extreme rent hikes while pursuing long-term housing solutions.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County? Local government may not be able to control federal immigration policy, but we can ensure that our resources go toward serving and protecting our communities rather than assisting masked gestapo in kidnapping them. That's why I've always been outspoken in my opposition to 287(g). County services must remain accessible and safe to all residents. Protecting civil rights and maintaining trust between immigrant communities and local government is essential for the safety and health of our county.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change? Climate change is already affecting communities across the country, including Frederick County. We must protect farmland and forests by expanding ag land preservation and strengthening zoning to prevent sprawl. We should require climate-smart development with green infrastructure and renewable energy in public buildings. We must also upgrade stormwater systems and strengthen flood preparedness. As a council-member, I will push for a County Climate Action Plan as soon as possible!

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Mason Carter

How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council? No response received by deadline.

What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require? No response received by deadline.

What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?No response received by deadline.

Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?No response received by deadline.

What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?No response received by deadline.

Judicial Offices

Frederick County Judge of the Circuit Court - Circuit 6

DUTIES: Circuit Court Judges preside over jury and bench trials in the Circuit Court, which hears major criminal trials with the right to a jury, and civil cases involving more than \$30,000. They also handle family law matters like divorce and custody, and decide appeals from lower courts.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$214,433

HOW ELECTED: Circuit Court Judges are elected county-wide. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a person to fill the office from a list recommended by a judicial nominating commission, which review's each applicants qualifications and experience. Each newly appointed judge will appear on the ballot in the first election occurring after at least one year after the vacancy. Attorneys who are members of the MarylandBar may also run to challenge a newly appointed of sitting judge. Candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots, but not the nonpartisan ballot given to unaffiliated voters.

WEBSITE: <https://www.courts.state.md.us/circuit>

Questions

EXPERIENCE: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this judgeship?

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this judgeship?

CHALLENGES: What are the greatest challenges facing the Maryland court system and how should they be addressed?

Candidate

Vote for 1.

Julia Ann Minner

EXPERIENCE: No response received by deadline.

PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

CHALLENGES: No response received by deadline.

Frederick County State's Attorney

DUTIES: The state's attorney is the chief prosecutor for the county, representing the State in District Court and Circuit Court proceedings. The state's attorney works with local law enforcement agencies to evaluate evidence, to decide whether or not to bring charges against suspects, negotiate plea bargains, and try cases before juries or judges. The States Attorney also ensures that victims and witnesses are supported.

TERM: Four-year term

SALARY: \$188,777 (statutorily set with annual increase equal to the average increment and salary adjustment of Frederick County employees.

HOW ELECTED: County-wide

Questions

- 1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as the County State’s Attorney?
- 2. What are your priorities for the position?
- 3. What is your position on revising the current system for setting bail for non-violent offenses?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

No Democratic candidates filed for this race.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Charlie Smith

- 1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as the County State’s Attorney?**No response received by deadline.
- 2. What are your priorities for the position?**No response received by deadline.
- 3. What is your position on revising the current system for setting bail for non-violent offenses?**No response received by deadline.

Frederick County Clerk of the Circuit Court

DUTIES: The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Frederick County is responsible for managing judicial records, recording land deeds, issuing licenses (marriage, business) and collecting fees for the state and county. The Clerk administers oaths of office to Notaries Public, County officials, Judges and Governor appointees. The Clerk can also perform civil marriage ceremonies.

TERM: Four-year term

SALARY: Determined by the Maryland Board of Public Works. Not to exceed \$146,500.

HOW ELECTED: County-wide

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?
2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Megan LeRoux

Campaign Email: MeganPowderlyLeRoux@yahoo.com

Campaign Facebook: LeRouxForClerk@facebook.com

Campaign Phone: 3017881153

Campaign Instagram: LeRouxClerkofCourt

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?My work ethic is rooted in generations of union members and leaders, including my ancestor Terence V. Powderly. I am an AFSCME and former UFCW member. While working full-time and raising my youngest son, I got up early, stayed up late, and studied during every work break. I had access to the Law Library after hours and weekends. I earned a degree in Legal Studies, cum laude and a certificate from the Inst. for Court Mgmt This position demands hard work from 9 to 5, not a political figurehead.

2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?Priority one is protecting Due Process and The Rule of Law for the citizens of Fred. Co. Today, we need local elected officials to declare and affirm their loyalty to the Constitution and not be complicit with the current Federal Adm. The biggest challenge will be thwarting any unlawful directives from Fed. Adm. I will not falter. Second, I will provide court staffers information regarding unionizing with AFSCME. Strength in numbers, there are 24 Circuit and 33 District Courts in Md.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Sandra K. Dalton

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?In my 35th year as a judicial Employee, I was first elected as Clerk in 1998. Continuing education has been provided by the Judiciary, NCSC, MSU, ICM, and joint conferences I have achieved the designation of Certified Court Manager and Executive.

2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?My priorities are to provide expert training for all staff. Many are cross-trained. My supervisors and I encourage an atmosphere where everyone works together and assists new employees to become part of our success team. Thank you for this opportunity!

Frederick County Register of Wills

DUTIES: The Register of Wills is responsible for appointing personal representatives to administer decedents' estates and for overseeing the proper and timely administration of these proceedings. The Register also assists the public in the preparation of all required forms; maintains and preserves the permanent record of all proceedings; serves as the Clerk to the Orphans' Court; tracks estates and refers delinquent matters to the Court; determines and collects inheritance taxes and probate fees/court costs; audits accounts of personal representatives and guardians; mails various notices and court orders to interested persons; and verifies compliance with court orders.

TERM: Four-year term

SALARY: Determined by the Maryland Board of Public Works, not to exceed \$124,500

HOW ELECTED: County-wide.

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?
2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Chris Manners

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?No response received by deadline.

2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Mary C. Rolle

Campaign Email: mary.rolle@hotmail.com

Campaign Phone: 3017480544

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?I have been serving as Register of Wills since 2022. I have gained knowledge and experience since being a Register. Prior to serving as Register, I was an Orphan's Court (probate court) Judge. During that time, I worked with the Register of Wills working with probate issues.

2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?The priority of the job is to help families that have lost loved ones. This can be a very difficult time in their lives, and my role is to help them through the probate process with kindness, respect and knowledge. A challenge that I have addressed in the last 4 years is to educate the public about the importance of having a will. These priorities have been accomplished by community outreach and sponsoring pro-bono days at Frederick Community College.

Frederick County Judge of the Orphans' Court

DUTIES: Judges of the Orphans' Court oversees probate, wills and estates. In addition, in Frederick County the court handles guardianship of a minor's property and in some cases Orphan's Court Judges conduct hearings that involve probate and guardianship disputes, review and act upon administration accounts, and request payments from estates or guardianships.

SALARY: \$10,000 for associate judges and \$500 in travel expenses

TERM: Four years with no term limits.

HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide.

Questions

EXPERIENCE: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this judgeship?

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this judgeship?

CHALLENGES: What is the greatest challenge facing the Orphans' Court system and how will you address it?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for up to 3.

Shuan Butcher

Campaign Twitter: [x.com/shuanbutcher](https://twitter.com/x.com/shuanbutcher)

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/shuanbutcherforfrederick

Campaign Email: electshuanbutcher@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 240-344-4757

EXPERIENCE: I am an Army veteran who has spent more than 25 years in management and leadership positions in the nonprofit sector. I have served on a number of nonprofit boards and volunteered for various other causes and events, with the goal of improving the quality of life for individuals and my community. I have taken some legal courses and have a basic understanding and a respect for the law. I will bring compassion and integrity to this role if I am elected.

PRIORITIES: I see this position more as a service position, rather than a political one. I am always looking for ways I can serve my community and this is one of the ways I can do just that. A couple of years ago, my wife lost her mother and father within a relatively short period of time and it was then that I realized how important having someone who care and someone who understands the laws and policies to get individuals through this difficult time in their life.

CHALLENGES: The biggest challenge is the lack of understanding about what a Judge of the Orphans' Court does. It is one of those down ballot races that some folks are unsure what the role or purpose is. In Maryland, the Orphans' Court is the constitutionally established probate court for Frederick County and is responsible for overseeing the administration of estates as outlined by Article IV of the Constitution. Three individuals are elected every four years and work together to resolve any issue issues.

Lois Jarman

Campaign Website: loisjarmanforjudge.weebly.com/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/lois.jarman.for.OrphansCourt1/

Campaign Email: loisjarman@aol.com

Campaign Phone: 443-295-3338

EXPERIENCE: I have been a public servant, serving two years on the Frederick County Board of Education, and an educator for more than 30 years. I believe my integrity and honesty will serve the residents of Frederick County well.

PRIORITIES: My priority is to bring a spirit of fairness and a dedication to the rule of law to this judgeship. If justice is indeed blind, I believe judges need to come to the bench having put aside any bias or preconceived ideas.

CHALLENGES: Three judges will serve the Orphans' Court, and I believe it will be essential for those judges to establish a strong working relationship. The judges will need to set the tone of teamwork from the get-go. I will bring to the table strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

Susan Reeder Jessee

Campaign Website: jessee4judge.com

Campaign Email: sej58@comcast.net

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586274646594

Campaign Phone: 2403855643

EXPERIENCE: As a lifelong resident of Frederick County, my academic and professional background, combined with my personal experience, have shaped my commitment to Judge of the Orphans' Court. I have worked in a regulated environments, upholding laws to ensure compliance and safety. In both my professional life & within the community, I have built lasting meaningful relationships. I spent countless hours in court rooms, driven by the memory of my sister, seeking justice on her behalf after her tragic death.

PRIORITIES: I will bring qualities most needed to do the job well: compassion, integrity, and common sense. Having worked in managerial roles, the most important thing I have learned is to listen first, research any concerns or situation, and then come up with solution that benefits everyone while following company policies and the law. As a judge, my priorities would include transparency,

fairness, and justice for those who appear before us with the same caliber.

CHALLENGES: The state of Maryland, Orphan Court Judges are currently facing significant challenges, including ethical, criminal, and interpersonal misconduct allegations. Improvements such as mandatory training, education requirements, and annual continuing education requirements should occur. Although there have not been any major scandals for Frederick County specifically, Maryland's focus on judicial transparency, and accountability for elected officials should be the focus, and Frederick County as well.

Carter Logan Lenz

EXPERIENCE: No response received by deadline.

PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

CHALLENGES: No response received by deadline.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for up to 3.

Rebecca Chmelik

EXPERIENCE: No response received by deadline.

PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

CHALLENGES: No response received by deadline.

Karen Dacey

Campaign Email: karenforfrederick@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE: I've lived in Frederick County for almost 50 years, and after my husband Bob Dacey passed away, I saw firsthand the importance of estate planning. This is not a partisan position; it's about helping families in their time of need. I'm a retired nurse & lactation consultant who spent my career helping families - I'll bring that same compassion to this position. I'm a grandmother, "Nona," to 4 and mother of 5, ready to bring my lifetime of experience to the court.

PRIORITIES: In this role, my top priority would be administering the law fairly and equitably. This role is not partisan - it's about ensuring that estates are handled properly and that a person's last wishes are honored. I dedicated my life to being a nurse & lactation consultant for 35 years. I learned to deal with folks from all walks of life, and I look forward to bringing that same decency and compassion to this role.

CHALLENGES: Let's admit it, most people don't know what the Orphans' Court does, and when you do figure it out, it's likely one of the worst times of your life—families dealing with the tragedy of a death need to know the resources available. I'll work to ensure better education of the public to make the process as smooth as possible. We've all dealt with loss. I hope that in this role, I can help make it a little easier for families.

Susan W. Wilson

EXPERIENCE: No response received by deadline.

PRIORITIES: No response received by deadline.

CHALLENGES: No response received by deadline.

Frederick County Sheriff

DUTIES: The Sheriff is the primary law enforcement agency for Frederick County. The office has county-wide jurisdiction over law enforcement, court security, and the adult detention center. The Sheriff is the only official that serves all 3 segments of our criminal justice system; law enforcement, the courts, and corrections.

TERM: 4 years with no limit on the number of consecutive terms that may be served

SALARY: \$125,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide.

Questions

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position?
2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers?
3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that?
4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?
4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?

Democratic Candidates

Democrats vote for 1.

Karl Bickel

Campaign Website: Bickel4Sheriff.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/karlbickelforsheriff/

Campaign Email: karlbickel@comcast.net

Campaign Phone: 3016399665

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position? Masters degree, management & police executive leadership certificate, Johns Hopkins U.: Masters & Bachelors, Justice, American University; Graduate of National Sheriff's Institute; Chief & second in command of FC sheriff's office; Patrol Officer & Detective Metropolitan Police Wash., DC; Senior Policy Analyst, US Department of Justice (retired); Asst. Prof Allegheny College; County Ex public Safety Transition Team; County Ex Ethics Task Force; Human Relations Commission; Substance Abuse Advisory

2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers? Would work with local college/university to study racial disparity that currently exists in arrests, traffic stops, investigative stops to prevent bias based policing. Results would be shared with the community and collaborative partnership with stakeholders will be formed to address any causes and/or problems discovered. Work with Ethan Saylor Alliance to improve training in dealing with special needs population, work to expand crisis car program.

3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that? Cooperation between law enforcement and community and political leaders is good with room for improvement. I will focus on procedural justice, both internally and externally to enhance trust and strengthen relationships. As sheriff, I will prioritize collaborative problem solving that includes community stakeholders and political leaders. I will work to break down silos which will improve service quality and savings in the use of taxpayer dollars.

4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?**4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?**The 287(g) program has been banned in Maryland. I would follow the guidance of Maryland's Attorney General, by only honoring criminal warrants signed by a judicial officer and not honor administrative warrants signed by a bureaucrat. Cooperation with ICE would mirror that of cooperation with other federal agencies like the FBI, ATF, US Marshals, DEA, IRS, Postal Inspectors, etc. Sheriff's deputies would not act as ICE agents or perform the duties of ICE agents.

Jason Cabel Ciemielewski

Campaign Website: www.Jason-For-Sheriff.com

Campaign Email: JasonCiemielewskiForSheriff@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 301-902-5159

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position?The Sheriff provides organizational leadership and accountability for the Sheriff's Office. I am a scientist with a background in research & development and biomanufacturing. I am experienced in working within highly multi disciplinary teams solving complex problems. As Sheriff, I will rely on subject matter experts, evidenced based best practices, and listen to frontline deputies for crafting solutions. As a civilian outsider, I will bring transparency and accountability that civilians want.

2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers?Pursue policies that prohibit biased policing, increase accountability, update education and training, increase community outreach, and utilize data analysis. I will prohibit using race/ethnicity to establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause without highly trustworthy and locally relevant information. I will establish an inter agency working group with the Health Department and community organizations to improve policies and practices. Increase co-responder mobile crisis cars.

3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that?Building mutual trust with communities is essential and the Sheriff must engage in long term respectful outreach. I believe our Sheriff is failing to improve relationships and trust. I will utilize collaborative models like police-citizen task forces that allow communities to participate directly in decision making and policy development. As Sheriff, I will designate personnel to different sectors of the County to engage with the community every month to support the police-citizen task force

4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?**4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?**No. The Sheriff's Office needs to focus on serious crime that affects our residents. Criminals will be pursued and face justice in our court system. Assisting federal agencies with federal immigration responsibilities weakens trust and assistance among community members for pursuing serious crimes. The federal government is violating the rights of residents across our country, trampling due process, and detaining people in inhumane conditions for civil offenses and mistaken identity.

Tony Lawson

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position?After graduating Highschool, I served my country in The United States Marines. In the Marines, I was instilled with discipline, honor, courage and commitment. These traits allowed me to think strategically and understand how to apply tactics to solve tense situations. I bring with me, 33 years of continuous Law Enforcement Service, a Police Leadership Graduate along with West Point Leadership Training. This allows me to be a Leader that is Transformational and a forward thinker.

2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers?As Sheriff, it is important to strengthen bonds within our community. By resembling the community that we serve. Implicit bias training and Culture Diversity training will prove to be invaluable to the work we do. By practicing patience at every scene, we will better recognize Mental Illness. Through recognition we will understand that arresting a person in crisis, is not the solution.

3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that?It is extremely important to seek out and maintain relationships with the community and community leaders. Through transparency and by being assessable to community leaders everyone benefits.

4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?**4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?**No!!! Vision, Innovation, Change, Equality: Vice not Ice. We do not enforce Federal Law. As Sheriff, our partnerships are with the communities that we serve.

Republican Candidates

Republicans vote for 1.

Chuck Jenkins

Campaign Website: JenkinsforSheriff.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/Jenkins4Sheriff

Campaign Email: chuckjenkins56@comcast.net

Campaign Phone: 2406742170

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position? There is no equal or substitute for the current relevant experience in law enforcement and corrections that I've gained managing and leading a full-service Sheriff's Office for 20 years. Real-world experience, ongoing training, and understanding changes in the law allow for effective management and decision-making. Decades-old college degrees and long-past careers in law enforcement cannot prepare someone for the role of Sheriff today. I bring 20 years of current experience in this position.

2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers? Policies, resources, and training are already in place to respond to situations involving people with mental health issues. Initial training is provided to all entry level personnel, and annually to all personnel in law enforcement and corrections. Discrimination is avoided by training in anti-discrimination/bias, implicit bias, bias based policing, hate crimes, and cultural diversity. My message to our personnel is to treat every resident of this county the way you would treat your own family.

3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that? The levels of community cooperation, involvement, respect, and participation with law enforcement are extremely good. Our longstanding relationships with local, state, and federal agencies are excellent, with routine communication and cooperation whenever needed. Our involvement and support of other county divisions are strong and effective, with open lines of communication and immediate responses. Any differences that exist between public leaders and agency heads are set aside for the citizens.

4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not? 4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not? I would continue to communicate and cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security / ICE, within lawful parameters, to report criminal illegal aliens with detainers. The reason is very simple. The recently ended 287g Program in Frederick County facilitated the removal of 1,884 identified criminal aliens from Frederick County. This county is safer because of the program. Going forward, the concern is that we will not be able to identify the criminal aliens committing the crimes.

Gary W. Morton

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position? Decades of law enforcement and leadership experience have prepared me for leading the men and women of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. I have spent my entire life serving people through my time with the fire service, service in the church, 35 years with the Sheriff's Office. Decades of Law Enforcement Experience rising to the rank of Major and completing Law Enforcement Executive Development Training.

2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers? My stance will be that policies will be written that are clear, there will be no biased policing and that all staff sworn and civilian adhere to these standards. Training is essential when it comes to mental health concerns. Building stronger relationships with our community mental health partners for more collaboration and transparency is necessary and not just checking a box on an in-service training video which is done in the deputy's patrol car along with many other training modules.

3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that? Trust is key when it comes to law enforcement efforts being successful. If your community has a distrust of the department how can investigative efforts be made by the officers when the public doesn't trust your agency. Strong communities require trust between the citizens and law enforcement. Deputies should be visible,

accessible, and engaged in the neighborhoods they serve. Working with local leaders, social services, schools, and public safety agencies is necessary or we have a failed system

4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not? My position remains clear and unwavering; the 287(g) program has been an effective public safety tool for Frederick County. The detention center model focused on individuals already arrested for criminal offenses, ensuring proper vetting before being released back into our community. This approach protects our communities while maintaining order, professionalism, and accountability. Keeping our communities safe must be a priority for any law enforcement agency.

Party Offices

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee

DUTIES: The Democratic State Central Committee is the governing body of the Maryland Democratic Party. The Central Committee is responsible for voter engagement, candidate support, fundraising and precinct organization. In addition, the Central Committee has the authority to fill vacancies in the Maryland General Assembly and recommends appointments for the Board of Elections for the Governor.

TERM: Four-year term

SALARY: Volunteer position responsible for their own expenses.

HOW ELECTED: Committee members are elected during the gubernatorial primary election.

WEBSITE: Maryland Democratic Party

Candidates

Democrats vote for up to 14.

No more than half of the members can be elected from the same gender.

Andrew A. Burgoyne (Male)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: Yes

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: The person I believe best reflects the positions of their future constituents and with the temperament needed to be effective in the job.

MOTIVATION: I have proven my commitment to advancing the Democratic Party's values of fairness, equity, and justice. I have also proven my commitment to the Party's goals of better outreach, messaging, and helping elect Democratic candidates.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: I would confer with members of the public to ensure I am best representing their interests in any vote for an appointee I may cast.

Deborah Carter (Female)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Patricia Clements (Female)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Stephen A. Duckett (Male)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Taylor D. Elder (Male)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Milton Hallin (Male)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Bassant Kadry (Female)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Mari Lee (Female)

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheRealMariJLee

Campaign Email: mari.gr.lee@gmail.com

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: Central Committee members are elected by their party's voters to govern and conduct business, including filling vacancies, one of the Committee's prominent actions. I want the Committee to retain that authority, so I don't favor a special election generally for expense and other reasons. However, I am potentially open to a special election per the current proposed legislation. It still permits the Committee to make the initial recommendation, and the cost could be absorbed at minimal cost.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: I would consider several things, such as a person's background, work or life experience, understanding of the role, skills, values, diverse vision and perspectives, local ties, plans to help their community, how they did in the interview, and any other important factors.

MOTIVATION: Serving others is one of my core values, and I am politically passionate. An America that belongs to everyone does not happen by chance; it takes speaking up and getting involved. I believe the Democratic Party works to uplift all. The current president and Republican/MAGA extremists jeopardize those ideals. I am committed to building a strong party, encouraging voter participation, and getting Democrats elected who will protect our democracy, support students, and help our communities succeed.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: Whether filling a general assembly vacancy, a Central Committee vacancy, or a vacancy on a board or commission, I can hopefully ensure my decision best serves the community's interests by following the criteria I outlined in question 2 and through thorough

discussions with the other Committee members.

William White Tison Pugh (Male)

Campaign Twitter: N/A

Campaign Email: tisonpugh@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 4074469897

Campaign Instagram: N/A

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: Democracy depends on responding to the people’s voices as soon as possible, and so I support special elections whenever it is practical and practicable to hold them.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: Should I be called upon to select a person to fill a vacancy in the Maryland General Assembly, I will look for a candidate who puts the people first, and who leads with ethics, character, and honesty.

MOTIVATION: Democracy is a participatory sport for all Americans, and I choose to participate.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: Character counts. I am most interested in finding people of character, no matter their background, who will advocate for all of Maryland’s citizens—even the ones with whom they might disagree on particular issues.

Deborah Reynolds (Female)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

David Schmidt (Male)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Jessica M. R. Tuel (Female)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Frederick County Republican Central Committee

DUTIES: The Republican State Central Committee is the governing body of the Maryland Republican Party. The Central Committee is responsible for candidate recruitment and support, voter mobilization and education, local party operations, fundraising and compliance and governance of the bylaws of the Maryland Republican party. In addition, the Central Committee has the authority to fill vacancies of certain elected offices and recommends appointments for the Board of Elections for the Governor.

TERM: Four-year term

SALARY: Volunteer position responsible for their own expenses.

HOW ELECTED: Committee members are elected during the gubernatorial primary election.

Candidates

Vote for up to 9.

Shelley Aloï

Campaign Email: aloï4Frederick@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 3016639538

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: Vacancies in the General Assembly are filled through a gubernatorial appointment process, and not by special election. Currently, when a seat becomes vacant, the central committee of the same political party as the vacated seat nominates a successor according to central committee bylaws. Then, the Governor formally appoints that person to serve the remainder of the term. I see no reason to change the current process.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: The appointee must belong to the same political party as the person who vacated the seat. The person must be a resident of Maryland for at least one year and a resident of the legislative district for at least six months prior to their appointment. Other criteria would be in accordance with central committee bylaws.

MOTIVATION: It has been a pleasure to serve, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue with new leaders who value teamwork, are willing to meet the community face-to-face, and welcome those who have felt disenfranchised from the political process. It has been said that all politics are local. This is true, and a majority of locals agree with our family values and fiscal responsibility, but some have been so discouraged that they stopped voting. Let's work together and vote for a brighter future.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: I will ensure that appointment decisions serve our constituents through a transparent public process that includes open applications and open meetings. The vetting process would include a standardized questionnaire, background review, and other merit based criteria as determined by the committee.

Heath S. Barnes

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Christian E. Browning

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Kai Burhans

Campaign Website: www.kaiburhans.com/

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582406665524

Campaign Email: citizensforkaiburhans@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 240-372-6670

Campaign Instagram: kaiburhans4countycouncil

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: I retain support of the central committee's ability to appoint a party member to the vacancy.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: First, if we are within a year of a election, or there are multiple candidates filed once filling has opened then the appointed member should not be a candidate as given that would provide an immediate advantage when campaigning. When it comes to other criteria, the appointed member should meet the needed qualifications required to file and become a member of the general assembly, as well as not having any possible conflict of interest on the issues they would be voting on.

MOTIVATION: I'm a lifelong republican and I grew up in a conservative minded family. I believe we need to revitalize our party and present a more competitive and active community oriented party that resonates with the average American family while still upholding our core values.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: My decisions on who I choose to vote for an appointment will be based off of experience, trust, knowledge, and the individuals ability to serve their community. We need officials

who are willing to serve and spend time assisting their constituents.

Mason Carter

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Rebecca Chmelik

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Pamela Ciliberti

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: In my judgement, this is the responsibility of the party Central Committee

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: He or she must have had some association with politics and a minimal understanding of the workings and mechanisms of the General Assembly <<< and has had some working experience within his/her own party.

MOTIVATION: I would like to continue reviewing and selecting candidates credentials . so that individuals could be supported and run for various offices and win... so that they might promote conservative , republican ideals

VACANCY SELECTIONS: Appointment decisions that promote strong , conservative, republican ideals will ensue just that.

Logan A. Cole

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: No response received by deadline.

MOTIVATION: No response received by deadline.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: No response received by deadline.

Samantha Andrea Fangmeyer

Campaign Website: site-iz7s8pvnq.godaddysites.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Samantha-Fangmeyer-61575493671965/

Campaign Email: samanthafangmeyerformaryland@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 301-569-3231

Campaign Instagram: @samanthafangmeyer

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: Yes, I do support special elections to fill the vacancies. However, they should be speedy as we don't want to drag out the process longer than it needs to be!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: The criteria I would base my decision from would be someone who has proven they are capable of the duties the position requires, someone from the area or at least used to a similar area, someone knowledgeable on the issues we focus on, someone who is loyal to the morals and ideologies we hold dear, but above all- loyal to our people and willing to fight to make sure all are heard and every consideration taken.

MOTIVATION: I have lived in Frederick all my life, and I am ready to hit the ground running to make the changes we need to protect our county from harmful actions and ideologies. I am also ready to fight to bring the next generation up to date, but that will not take the place of what we already have. I am excited to help get the word out to the community as well through social media and the website!

VACANCY SELECTIONS: My decision will solely be based off who is the most capable to truly serve our society. The only interest of the person should be the good of the people we will serve, nothing else. Our people are the most important, and if they cannot count on us to appoint someone who truly has their best interests at heart, how can we do our job the best we can? I've never lived anywhere else, and I wouldn't want to, so you can trust my decision will always be for the good of our

community.

Heather Fletcher

Campaign Twitter: x.com/fletcherforboe

Campaign Website: www.fletcherforboe.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/fletcherforboe

Campaign Email: fletcherforboe@yahoo.com

Campaign Phone: 301-204-0685

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/fletcherforboe

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: I support the current process in which the party Central Committee recommends a replacement when a vacancy occurs in the General Assembly. Voters elected that party to represent them, and this system helps ensure their choice is respected while maintaining local representation. It also allows the community, through their elected Central Committee members, to have a voice in selecting someone who will continue to represent the district's values.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: A candidate with integrity, strong conservative principles, and a demonstrated commitment to serving the people of the district. The individual should respect the Constitution, support fiscal responsibility, and be committed to protecting individual liberties and parental rights. I would also consider their ability to listen to constituents, work effectively with others, and represent the values of the voters who elected a Republican to that seat in the Maryland General Assembly.

MOTIVATION: I want to serve on the Frederick County Republican Central Committee to help ensure that qualified, principled Republicans are elected to represent our community. I believe our party must provide strong candidates who uphold conservative values, protect parental rights, and support fiscal responsibility. By serving on the Central Committee, I can help recruit, vet, and support candidates who reflect the priorities of our voters and strengthen Republican leadership in our county and state.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: By evaluating candidates based on their experience, integrity, and understanding of local needs. I would seek individuals who demonstrate a proven commitment to public service, respect for parental and community input, and a focus on practical solutions. By prioritizing both competence and alignment with the values of Frederick County residents, I can help fill vacancies with leaders who strengthen our schools, neighborhoods, and local government.

Patricia Kelly

Campaign Website: www.nowebsite.com

Campaign Twitter: n/a

Campaign Email: patriciaklly@aol.com

Campaign Phone: 3016954453

Campaign Instagram: n/a

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: I would always prefer direct voter choice of all elected officials, but, given the history of extremely low voter turnout and high cost of special elections, as well as the appointing Central Committee being of the same party as the person vacating the position, my answer is no. I support appointment until the next appropriate election.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: I would choose a qualified, committed person with high ethical standards, leadership, collaboration and communication skills, and a history of successful performance in life.

MOTIVATION: I want to contribute to the strengthening of the Frederick County Republican Party, both in terms of respect and unity within the organization and, very importantly, to help improve messaging. In my view, common sense Republican messaging is often lost in the stream of misinformation in today's news and political speech.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: One cannot completely control the outcome of a decision, but I would make an honest effort through research looking for the qualities listed in the second question above: commitment, qualification, high ethical standards, communication and collaboration skills, and a history of successful accomplishment.

Ashley Nieves

Campaign Website: Nieves4delegate.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/nieves4delegate

Campaign Email: Nieves4delegate@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 240-344-5306

Campaign Instagram: Nieves_for_state_delegate

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: I believe voters should have the strongest voice possible. I support exploring special elections when feasible, but also recognize the Central Committee's constitutional role. If tasked with an appointment, I will take that responsibility seriously and ensure the process is transparent, fair, and focused on representing the will of our community.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: I will prioritize candidates with strong integrity, a proven record of service, and alignment with Republican principles. Equally important is their understanding of Frederick County's needs, ability to communicate with constituents, and readiness to serve effectively from day one.

MOTIVATION: I've been actively involved in our party—supporting candidates, organizing events, and engaging voters—and want to take the next step in service. I'm committed to strengthening our local Republican Party, building our bench, and ensuring our values are effectively represented in Frederick County and beyond.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: I will seek input from local leaders, stakeholders, and voters to guide decisions. Transparency, accountability, and careful vetting will be key. My goal is to appoint someone who reflects our community's values, will listen to constituents, and can effectively advocate for Frederick County.

Christopher R. Ragen

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: I believe a special election is the correct avenue to fill vacancies. The will of the people is paramount and any politician should have to answer to the people, not the party apparatus

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: If an election is not possible, I'd be looking for someone who is open, transparent, and willing to compromise with their compatriots across the aisle.

MOTIVATION: I believe that both of the parties have fallen prey to extremism and malignant exterior influences. I hope to champion the power of compromise, prioritize seeking moderate positions, and reaffirm the values at the heart of our representative republic

VACANCY SELECTIONS: Ideally by going out and asking the people, what are the key issues, what do they need from their officials, and ultimately, how would they address the problems they see.

Billy Shreve

Campaign Email: billy21701@gmail.com

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No. I created the process to fill the vacant seat and it has worked for almost 20 years. Follow my Facebook Billy Shreve - Political, and you can see the history of success filing positions on the Central Committee, and as a County Commissioner and County Councilman.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: I created the process to fill the vacant seat and it has worked for almost 20 years.

MOTIVATION: I served on the Central Committee for 3 terms, leaving in 2018. I created the process to replace vacated seats of elected officials, and many other policy documents. I served as Vice Chair and Chair of the committee. The Committee is ready for another round of energy and I am bringing the heat!

VACANCY SELECTIONS: I created the process to fill the vacant seat and it has worked for almost 20 years.

Kate Taylor

Campaign Website: taylorformaryland.com

Campaign Email: kate@taylorformaryland.com

Campaign Phone: 703-408-2404

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: No. I do not support special elections for political vacancies. They are costly, rarely flip the seat to the other party, and typically see very low turnout (under 20%), which contributes to voter fatigue. A better solution is to let the party that held the seat fill the vacancy through appointment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: Criteria I would use (as the party deciding): Must meet constitutional requirements: resident of the district for at least 6 months, qualified voter, same party

affiliation. Strong alignment with party values and platform. Demonstrated experience in public service, community involvement, or relevant expertise. Ability to effectively represent constituents and work in Annapolis. Broad support from local party members, stakeholders, and voters to ensure continuity and electability.

MOTIVATION: I want to serve on the Committee because the current one is underperforming. We need a strong organization & outreach to grow our party & win elections by Recruiting candidates early, funding & promoting them aggressively. Maximizing website with policy papers to clearly communicate Republican principles. Reinstating the precinct captain system for better voter engagement. Recruiting more election judges. Coordinating action with the Republican Club, Women’s Club, & Young Republicans.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: To ensure appointments serve the community's best interests, use open/transparent communication with key party members, local stakeholders & district residents. This means seeking input from voters, officials, & leaders to find candidates who share GOP values & address local priorities, using a fair, structured process (applications, interviews) focused on qualifications, experience, constituent service, & advancing party goals. Transparency & merit ensure an appointee represents the district.

Justin Wages

Campaign Facebook: Facebook.com/ElectWages

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: Special elections can get very expensive for what ends up being a very low-turnout affair. I believe that the current setup, where the party central committee appoints someone to complete the term, balances the will of the voter with the costs of running a special election. The current system also makes for a quick turnaround, filling the vacancy in a timely matter.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VACANCIES: Obviously, each situation is going to have its own set of circumstances. However, I would strive to find the candidate who is most similar to the official they are replacing. Do they come from a similar background or profession? Do they specialize in the same area of expertise? Of course, these considerations go out of the window if the candidate does not have the right qualifications to do the job effectively. Communication, trustworthiness, and effectiveness are all important considerations.

MOTIVATION: As the current chairman of the Frederick County Republican Central Committee, I am motivated by the desire to continue the work of the current committee. The FCRCC was recently awarded by the MDGOP as the “outstanding Republican county” of the year. We have laid important groundwork that I would love to continue building upon in the next four years leading up to the 2030 midterms. Frederick County used to be ruby red, and I am committed to getting us back there.

VACANCY SELECTIONS: Community input is essential in ensuring that the FCRCC’s appointment decisions serve the best interest of the community. A number of years ago, many voters were upset with how a vacancy in the Maryland House of Delegates was filled. Those voters felt that their voices did not matter. At the end of the day, FCRCC members are elected officials, and we owe the public the same level of transparency and respect afforded to them by those who hold higher offices.

Nonpartisan Offices

Frederick County Board of Education

DUTIES: Members of the Board of Education determine and enforce policies that govern the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS). Among other responsibilities, the Board of Education appoints the

Superintendent of Schools; sets policy, approves curriculum and major expenditures, oversees financial and operational governance of schools.

SALARY: \$14,000. The president of the Board receives \$15,000.

TERM: Four- year staggered terms; no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected Countywide in a nonpartisan election

Questions

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?
2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?
3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?
4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?
5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?
6. Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?
7. How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

Candidates

Vote for up to 4.

Maria A. Carrasco

Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position? Policy 443 was recently adopted after substantial debate and effort. FCPS should implement it and not keep rewriting major policies before we have learned from them. The current policy balances parent concerns with the need to protect transgender students, who can be especially vulnerable if involuntarily outed. I would support implementation, training, and review after 2 to 3 years, while keeping the Board focused on student achievement and closing outcome gaps.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position? I do not support blanket book bans. Concerns about books should be addressed through FCPS's established review process, with careful case-by-case evaluation of age-appropriateness and educational value. Parents and community members should be able to raise concerns, and those concerns should be reviewed seriously and transparently. If the process needs improvement, I would support that, but broad bans are not the right solution.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce? FCPS should prepare students for multiple paths after graduation, including college, vocational training, apprenticeships, military service, and direct entry into the workforce. I support strong literacy and math instruction, career counseling, dual enrollment, internships, and expanded career and technical education. Student success should not be defined by one path. Schools should help every student graduate with the skills to pursue their own path and build fulfilling lives.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? FCPS should strengthen civics education at all levels by making it more practical and relevant to students' lives, including how government works, how local decisions affect communities, and why civic participation matters. It should also include critical thinking, media literacy, and respectful civic dialogue so students can evaluate evidence, assess sources, recognize bias, distinguish fact from misinformation and

disinformation, and engage respectfully in public life.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board? My education and life experience have prepared me to serve with expertise, practical judgment, and a strong commitment to this community. I hold a PhD and two master's degrees, and I have spent my career managing complex programs, using data to solve problems, overseeing large budgets, and bringing people together around practical solutions. As a Frederick County parent, farmer, longtime resident, and strong listener, I would work to serve students, families, and teachers well.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority? I support the goals of the Blueprint, especially expanding early childhood education for families with the greatest needs, strengthening teacher quality, and helping more students succeed. At the same time, Maryland must be honest about long-term affordability and what counties can realistically sustain. If funding falls short, priority should go to early childhood, classroom instruction, teacher support, and students who are behind academically.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs? Schools can promote good citizenship through both instruction and daily practice. Students should learn how to listen carefully, ask questions, support their views with evidence, and disagree without attacking others' motives or character. These habits help build trust and strengthen the school community. Civics, classroom discussion, group projects, student leadership opportunities, and age-appropriate debate can all help students practice these skills. Adults in FCPS should set the tone.

Chloe Celeste

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools.

What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position? As a transgender woman and a recent student of FCPS myself, I am proud to say that I strongly support policy 443. If elected to the board, I will unapologetically advocate for the continuity of the current protections our county offers to its LGBTQ students, as well as demand the bolstering of said protections. There is no situation in which I will concede any ground on this issue, as basic civil rights are not something that can ever be used as a bargaining chip, at least not while I'm around.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position? Book bans are a tool of authoritarianism and are completely unacceptable in any situation. There are no books in our county's school libraries or classrooms that warrant such a response. Educators and librarians are paid to oversee what reading material is offered in schools, and it would be outright insulting to come in with none of the job experience they have and unilaterally determine which books are acceptable and which ones are not.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce? I strongly believe the purpose of public schools is to provide students with a foundation ready for postsecondary education, or a career if they so choose. Preparation should start as early as possible, and students should be offered much more in the form of resources and advice than is currently available in our county's schools, as needs can differ significantly from person to person. One example would be to have a vocational program more robust than what CTC currently has to offer.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? FCPS' curriculum is exceedingly lacking when it comes to educating students on the topic of civics. A well-educated population is a critical necessity to maintain a healthy democracy, and that starts with our public schools. Media literacy absolutely must be taught to a higher degree than it currently is, as it is the single most effective tool against falling for disinformation and conspiracy theories. There should also be more rigorous history teaching, primarily from a non-western perspective.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board? I happen to be a very recent graduate of the local public school system, and my views and criticisms stem from a perspective of not only the average student, but also those who have been historically under-represented when it comes to the leaders tasked with making decisions to hopefully

better the lives of our youth. I deeply care about and empathize with the experiences of everyday FCPS students, and it seemed that no other candidate was able to offer such a standpoint.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?The Blueprint for Maryland's Future should absolutely receive full funding and support, as well as implementation within the near future. Experts on the subject spent years crafting this plan, and it would be foolish to write it off before it has even been put into practice. Low funds can be solved if the county council simply redirects money from the FCSO budget to the board of education instead. It should not be considered radical to say that our youth come first.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?Schools should be for educating our youth, not for making reactionaries out of them. The concept of "respectful dialogue" only serves to enable the far-right, and students should explicitly be taught not to engage with fascists. The marketplace of ideas is a fictitious tool invoked by authoritarians when their beliefs are pushed back on, leading to nothing more than a population trained to be docile when faced with oppressive institutions, namely the state and capitalism.

Casey Day

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?I support Policy 443 and ensuring that every student feels safe and welcome in our schools and classrooms.

When students feel respected and valued, they are better able to focus on learning and grow into their best selves. Our schools should be places where all students can learn without fear of bullying or discrimination. As a Board member, I will support policies and practices that protect student safety, dignity, and belonging.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?FCPS already has a policy and review process for instructional and library materials, and families can log into the library system to set preferences and make decisions for their own children. I do not support banning books for all students based on individual objections. As a Board member, I will uphold the FCPS review process, respect educators' expertise, and ensure compliance with Maryland's Freedom to Read Act.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?Graduates are best prepared when schools provide strong academics and meaningful career pathways. As a computer science teacher, I support expanding dual enrollment, internships, apprenticeships, CTE, and industry partnerships while strengthening literacy and math. I will also work to ensure students across the county have equal access to these opportunities.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?Strong civics education is essential to a representative and engaged democracy. FCPS should strengthen media literacy, source evaluation, civil discourse, civic engagement, and the inclusion of diverse civic perspectives and historically underrepresented voices. Students should learn to assess evidence and recognize misinformation and disinformation. As FCPS adds instruction on using AI, it is also an opportunity to strengthen critical thinking and information literacy.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?My 31 years in FCPS classrooms, from elementary through high school, have given me a deep understanding of how Board decisions affect students and teachers every day. I have worked closely with families, supported struggling readers, coached robotics teams, and advocated for policies that support students and staff locally and at the state and national level. I hold a BA and MS in Education, PK-12 certifications, and taught future literacy specialists at Hood College for 14 years.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?The Blueprint builds on the important work of the Kirwan Commission to strengthen early learning, literacy, educator support, and career pathways. I support those goals. But today's fiscal realities mean implementation must be realistic and sustainable. As a Board member, I will advocate for

continued investment, support adjustments to timelines where staffing shortages make rollout difficult, and work with the state on potential revisions to AIB oversight to ensure practical implementation.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?Schools promote good citizenship by teaching students how to listen, evaluate evidence, and engage respectfully with people who hold different views. Civics instruction should include structured discussions, debate, and service learning so students practice civil discourse and collaborative problem solving. When students learn to consider multiple perspectives, support ideas with evidence, and seek common ground, they build the skills needed to participate responsibly in a diverse democracy.

Jess Douglass

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?

Policy 443 was created to prevent discrimination and bullying of transgender and gender-nonconforming students and is reviewed every three years to ensure it reflects current law and community input. Recently, extremists have tried to hijack this process to wage a culture war at the expense of a small group of vulnerable students. I will push back against those efforts, defend the policy's purpose, and stand up for every student so transgender and gender-nonconforming youth feel safe and welcome

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?School library collections and course curriculum must be diverse, inclusive, and representative of many cultures so students can see themselves in what they read and develop a love of reading and learning. I oppose banning books based on an author's identity or viewpoints. FCPS policy allows parents to restrict which books their own children check out, and I will support removing nonfiction only when its claims are proven false. I will uphold policies that allow community input without bans.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?As a special education teacher, I see how difficult the transition out of public school can be for students with IEPs and their families. I would advocate for FCPS to hire a dedicated Transition Support Specialist at every high school to guide students through planning for work, further education, and adult services. I also support expanding parent workshops on transition planning. On the board, I would advocate for the funding required to staff these initiatives.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?Civics education has three key components: understanding First Amendment rights, learning about current events, and direct instruction in civic engagement. Starting in kindergarten, students learn the importance of sharing their voice and ensuring all voices are heard. Instruction must teach evaluating factual information, avoiding disinformation, and applying these skills across all grades and subjects, so that they can engage in informed civic action; specific engagement strategies included.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?My work with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America taught me how to advocate - a school board member's most important responsibility. Effective advocacy means building broad coalitions, motivating volunteers, and leading others to act. I can clearly communicate the real cost of operating our schools and advocate for full funding at both the county and state levels. I know how to bring together parents, educators, and community members to strengthen our collective voice for FCPS.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?Yes, I believe the Blueprint should receive full funding and implementation. I would advocate in Annapolis and organize a countywide PTA committee to coordinate legislative priorities, messaging, and an FCPS Advocacy Day, uniting parents and teachers to amplify our voice. If full funding isn't possible, I believe teacher pay and early childhood education should be prioritized to ensure the most critical elements of the Blueprint are protected and effectively support students in Frederick County.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?I've seen students and teachers struggle with respectful dialogue in my classroom, especially around immigration-related issues that

cause fear and stress for students. FCPS staff need training on how anxiety about immigration enforcement can affect behavior, attendance, and emotional regulation, and on practical ways to foster safety and stability. Teachers also need clear guidance on how to acknowledge concerns respectfully, support worried students, and model constructive, empathetic dialogue

Heather Fletcher

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools.

What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position? Policy 443 requires teachers and staff to keep information from parents and compromises students' privacy in restrooms and locker rooms. If elected, I would work to remove this policy and ensure a zero-tolerance bullying approach. Students who feel uncomfortable using the public facilities would have access to single-stall restrooms. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported, and absolutely no bullying will be tolerated.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position? Schools should maintain library collections that support learning, literacy, and positive student development. Materials that depict explicit sexual acts or other obscene content are not appropriate for school libraries and should be removed. If elected, I will advocate for transparency and parental involvement in reviewing library and curriculum materials, ensuring that all content aligns with academic standards and supports a safe, respectful, and academically rigorous learning environment.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce? I will prioritize a classical curriculum that strengthens core academics in reading, writing, math, and science, while expanding school choice and career and technology programs so students gain real-world skills. By focusing on academic excellence, structured learning, and parental involvement, we can ensure graduates are prepared for higher education or the workforce and equipped to think critically, solve problems, and succeed in life.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? Civic engagement is essential to uphold our constitutional republic, but schools should focus on teaching civic duty, not radical or ideological agendas. Students should learn how our government works, their rights under the Constitution, and the importance of participating in their communities. The curriculum should also develop critical thinking skills, enabling students to evaluate information for themselves rather than relying on the government to define what is "misinformation."

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board? My experience as an Air Traffic Controller and Certified Facility Instructor at Joint Base Andrews taught me leadership, problem-solving, and how to apply complex policies under pressure. As a parent of three, I've volunteered as a teacher's assistant and worked in public, private, and homeschool classrooms, giving me firsthand insight into strong academics, structured learning, parental engagement, and safe schools. I am prepared to make thoughtful, results-driven decisions on the board!

6. Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority? I do not support the Maryland Blueprint because education should remain under local control. Local communities best understand their students' needs, and the Blueprint is costly with no proven results. I will prioritize strengthening academics, supporting teachers, and maintaining safe, structured schools. If cuts are needed, funding should focus on programs that directly improve student achievement and classroom learning, not ideologically driven initiatives.

7. How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs? Schools should teach classical civics, guiding students to engage respectfully with differing opinions through modeling civil dialogue, active listening, and structured discussions like debates or Socratic seminars. Students should learn to evaluate information, distinguish fact from opinion, and think independently. Partnering with parents and providing real-world civic experiences reinforces respectful behavior and prepares students to be thoughtful, responsible citizens in a diverse society.

Nathan W. Foltz

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools.

What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?I am a supporter of Policy 443 and I the BOE has voted for Policy 443 and the Policy was supported by Dr Dyson and the Student Member. I recently had opportunity to attend a Youth Political event and the #1 concern of 18-26 years of age is being Alienated. Look youth sometimes create a pecking order and as adults we need to make sure the rules and supervision create an environment that is welcoming. It is essential that the student environment is accepting and inclusive.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?I do not support the Censorship of Literature of school system. I think the recommendations were for 1 book to be moved from Middle to High school. The only thing an adult needs to say to a student who reads a book is "Good job" I heard the Public comment talk about books, but I never heard one word about cell phones Tech, video games, or music. So I do not believe censorship is way to go with Literature. Literature is a work of Art and if you don't like it don't read it or recommend it.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?As a person with a 53 credit MA degree in SPED I have a career in Education that almost 30 years old. I believe the best way to prepare the students for the Workforce is give them the skills to not be attached to a cell phone the whole day. When I first part came in to Education the philosophy was put Tech in to every lesson. I don't agree with it then and I don't agree with Tech needing to be in every Lesson.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?Yes European countries are doing this Education Practice. I believe advertising as whole it persuades, the buyer or student should be taught to evaluate products, it was in Tobacco Advertising in Health curriculum, but I think Advertising should be taught to student to be a better consumer and also see through materialistic persuasions by Corporate entities specifically Media and Tech.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?I have a 53 credit MA in Special Education. I also have a BA in Secondary Ed. I subbed for over 15 years multiple subjects. I have also subbed for every Special Ed position in 2 year acquisition of my MA degree in Special Ed Autism. I got a year of Service because I worked over 130 days for 2 years as a Substitute Teacher for SPED/AU enclosed classroom, resource, transition, or PreK special needs for actually whole year. It has come to my attention MD is At Will, this is not for SPED AU class.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?I

support the Blueprint. The problem with the Blueprint is MD labor laws are not congruent with Public education or especially Special Education which has Federal mandates. I believe that the #1 Ailment to hiring and retaining FCPS employees is change Labor laws. I really like for Frederick Delegation to do a Bipartisan evaluation of At Will Labor Policy for Public Ed and Special Ed. I can tell you MD current labor policy and Federal SPED law IDEA cannot coexist.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?I just turned 49 and I had Civics at Middletown high school when I was in grade 10. It was extensive and a requirement to graduate. I am concerned by US investment in Military and Police but taking monetary support from Education specifically to threaten citizens well being of families with a member who has a disability. When a fairer world and country exist our youth feels less Alienated, and we get better schools by budgeting for General Ed state as well as Special Ed Federal funded.

Rae Gallagher

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools.

What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?As a current Board of Education member, I supported and upheld Policy 443 to ensure a safe, welcoming, and affirming school environment for all of our transgender and gender nonconforming students. If re-elected, I will continue to support policy 443 and defend the rights of our LGBTQ+ community.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?During my current tenure

on the Board, I advocated for updates to Policy 500 (selection of curriculum and instructional materials) as well as Policy 501 (selection of library and media materials) to ensure materials promote equity, respect, and civility among our diverse community and provide opportunities for staff and students to model cultural proficiency in every school and program. I fully support the expertise of our media specialists and our curriculum staff.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?

As a Board member and as a candidate, I have emphasized the importance of investing in the expansion of our Career Technology Education program, implementing Career Coaches at the middle and high school levels, and expanding access to equitable programming such as AP courses and dual enrollment. As a Board member, I will continue to emphasize the importance of access for all students - including those historically underrepresented - to gain access to equitable educational opportunities.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?

The FCPS social studies department offers a broad range of opportunities for civic education and engagement. As the influence of social media and AI grows, I do support continuing to implement education in which classroom teachers and media specialists emphasize the importance of utilizing critical thinking skills and strategies to "fact check" from multiple sources. These strategies should be implemented across all grade levels, starting in elementary school.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?

I currently have two children within FCPS and being a parent while serving on the Board gives me a unique perspective. Additionally, I have over 20 years of nonprofit experience partnering with educational institutions from K-12 and universities, as well as experience writing and developing social-emotional learning curriculum for middle and high school students. As a Board member, I prioritize visiting schools and hearing directly from students and educators.

6. Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?

I fully support the tenets of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future but the funding supports have lagged behind implementation expectations. There are also core components of education - such as arts, music, physical education- even class size - that are not prioritized under the Blueprint. In order for the Blueprint to be fully successful, funding must be prioritized and local jurisdictions should be given more autonomy over implementation timelines.

7. How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

I believe that our existing curriculum prioritizes good citizenship that offers opportunities for engagement, dialogue, and sharing of viewpoints. However, our schools must be a safe place for all students - and staff members - which means that there is accountability for dialogue that is based on hate, bias, or discriminatory language. Through structured discussion and modeling respectful listening, our educators provide environments where diverse viewpoints are welcome and heard.

David A. Migdal

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools.

What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position? I believe Policy 443 is important to protect all students and their right to be themselves. Every student should feel safe and have access to private changing areas and restrooms if desired. At the same time, athletic participation should follow Olympic and NCAA decisions to protect competitive equity in women's sports by limiting participation of transgender women in those competitions.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?

I do not support banning books currently in the school curriculum or library. Instead, I believe FCPS should implement an opt-in or opt-out policy that allows parents to decide which books their children may borrow. Parents should have a voice in guiding their child's reading choices while ensuring that all students continue to have access to a broad and diverse selection of texts.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?

Strong literacy begins in the early elementary years when students build foundational reading skills. FCPS has begun implementing the Science of Reading, but

students must receive intensive support early rather than waiting until they fall behind. FCPS should also use an "At Risk" questionnaire to identify students who may have learning disabilities sooner. Math outcomes must improve through structured, sequential interventions that build foundational skills. Handwriting should also be taught.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? Students learn best through hands-on experiences. FCPS should expand trips and community engagement so students connect with local and state issues, fostering responsibility and ownership. Many cannot name our Governor, County Commissioners, or Mayor. It's also important to teach that AI is a tool, requiring critical thinking, digital safety, and fact-checking to prevent misinformation, while linking learning to real civic life strengthens engagement.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board? As a child, I needed specialized instruction in reading, writing, and math. Those experiences led me to become an elementary teacher and later an assistant principal. As a teacher, administrator, and parent of two children with dyslexia, I have sat on every side of the IEP table. I know FCPS must strengthen timelines for intensive support, communicate and partner more effectively with parents, and provide teachers with stronger support at every level.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority? The Maryland Blueprint aims to close achievement gaps, but without full funding, FCPS may have to reduce staff to meet salary requirements. Cuts to media specialists limit students' access to technology, research, and essential supports. Funding for high-poverty schools, special education, English learners, and the core foundational formula must be protected, as these investments are critical for equity and improving student outcomes, even in challenging budget years.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs? Modeling a safe space where students, parents, and staff feel heard is essential. My philosophy has always been that you do not have to be friends with everyone, but you must listen and show respect, especially when you disagree. I hold myself to the same standard by valuing others' voices. At the same time, I recognize that leadership requires difficult decisions guided by facts, data, and what best serves students and staff.

Shelley L. Potter

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position? I believe students should use the bathrooms, locker rooms, and play on the sports teams of their biological sex. Having optional single-use bathrooms and co-ed sports teams for those who wish to participate could help alleviate some of the current frustration. I do not agree with compelled speech (teachers and students being forced to use preferred pronouns) or withholding information from parents regarding their child in any way.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position? I believe books with sexual content have no place inside schools with the exception of high school biology class. Schools, libraries, and curriculum should focus on teaching students academics and facts, and leave ideology and religion out of instruction.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce? I think we need to focus on scientifically backed curriculum with a proven track record of success. Students need early intervention in reading and books over devices. Math should focus on fewer concepts that are taught to mastery. I wholly support expanding our career and technical education so more students can enroll each year.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? I have not yet been able to go through all of FCPS' curriculum to see where civics education needs to be improved. However, I do think it's essential for students to have a deep understanding of our country's founding and the responsibility this places on all citizens. It is important for the school to model positive civic activity by being a force for good in their communities. Critical thinking skills and identifying factual information

versus propaganda should be taught at every grade level.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?I am an experienced educator and school leader with over 15 years of teaching and administrative experience in the United States and abroad. As a Frederick County native, I attended local public schools and hold a Master of Arts in Teaching from American University. My professional career has included teaching, administration and curriculum development roles in Montgomery County Public Schools, Washington, D.C., the United Arab Emirates and Oman

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?No. No more taxpayer money needs to be spent on public schools. Currently, 40% of Frederick County's property taxes are funneled into the school system, and yet, our children are not succeeding. I think we need to take a close look at the budget and where money is spent and reallocate funds to better support teachers and students. I do, however, agree with increasing teacher salaries, more support in the classroom, and more planning time to help attract and retain qualified educators.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?Good citizenship skills start at home and continue in school. As educators, we need to model respectful dialogue in and outside the classrooms both with those who share our beliefs and those who don't. Teachers, administrators and parents need to work together to hold students accountable for their behavior.

Dean Rose

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?As Chair of the Policy Committee during the review of Policy 443, I supported maintaining protections that ensure all students feel safe and respected in our schools, including transgender students. FCPS policies must comply with state and federal law while creating welcoming learning environments. I will continue supporting policies that protect student safety, dignity, and access to safe and welcoming educational spaces.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?I do not support book bans. Schools should offer age-appropriate materials selected by educators and librarians through established review processes. If concerns arise, FCPS has a formal procedure to evaluate materials. As I have in the past, I will continue to support that process to ensure decisions are thoughtful, transparent, and educationally sound and not politically motivated. I will work with families and educators to ensure students have access to valuable media materials.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?Preparing students for life after graduation requires strong academics and real-world opportunities. I support strengthening early literacy and math, expanding career and technical education by expanding our Career Tech Center and providing more offerings in our schools, more internships/apprenticeships with our Frederick County business partners, dual enrollment, early college, and ensuring students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed for college, careers, or military service.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?Civics education should help students understand how our government works and how to participate responsibly in a democracy. I support strengthening instruction in history and civics while emphasizing critical thinking, media literacy, and the ability to evaluate sources so students can distinguish credible information from misinformation. Students should graduate with a strong understanding of our constitutional system and the skills to be informed citizens.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?In addition to my personal educational experience, much of my perspective comes from four years serving on the FCPS Board of Education, including 3 years in leadership and most recently as Board President, service on boards of child-serving nonprofits, and 13 years coaching FCPS youth. As a parent of two FCPS graduates, I understand firsthand how important strong schools and responsible leadership are for students and families. Strong schools build strong communities.

6.Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and

implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?

I support the goals of the Blueprint, particularly strengthening the teaching profession and expanding career pathways for students. At the same time, implementation must remain sustainable for local school systems. I support ongoing evaluation, transparency in funding, and flexibility to ensure the program continues to benefit students while remaining fiscally responsible. If adjustments are necessary, priority should remain on investments that directly support students and educators.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

Schools promote good citizenship by strengthening civics education and encouraging respectful discussion of different viewpoints. Teaching students to think critically, evaluate information, and engage constructively with others helps prepare them to be responsible and informed members of society. These skills help prepare students to participate thoughtfully and responsibly. Learning how to have thoughtful discussions, even when we disagree, is an important skill for a healthy democracy.

Samuel Rosenbloom

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?

No response received by deadline.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?

No response received by deadline.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?

No response received by deadline.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?

No response received by deadline.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?

No response received by deadline.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?

No response received by deadline.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

No response received by deadline.

Geoffrey Seidel

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?

Policy 443 puts schools between parents and their children. The policy defaults to secrecy instead of partnership. That is a mistake. Parents come first. The standard should be simple: no secrets from parents. No girls in boys' BRs or sports We can protect every student's dignity without cutting families out. Rebuild trust through transparency & respect. Teachers also need to understand the new directions and provisions of Policy 443. There is no negotiation or agendas. Common sense please.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?

FCPS Policy 115 requires the school system to block pornographic material on the internet, yet the district has no clear policy that explicitly prohibits pornography in the library. FCPS policy must be enforced clearly & consistently. Protect kids, respect families, & keep politics out of the classroom. Parents want accountability, not chaos. Pornography is an addiction that negatively impacts society. There is no academic value in having pornography in the school library. Common sense please.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?

Set a knowledge-rich curriculum: require phonics-based reading, math mastery benchmarks, & frequent research-based assessments, because results matter. Expand CTC seats, paid apprenticeships, dual enrollment, & industry certs with local employers; real pathways & real paychecks. Enforce a clear code of conduct, consistent consequences, cell phone limits, & alternative placements. Developing critical thinking skills & embracing best-practices is essential. Let's

send out productive adults.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? Civics is too often missing from today's classrooms, leaving students unprepared for citizenship. Restore it with content-rich instruction grounded in founding documents, constitutional principles, & how government works. Pair it with rigorous media literacy; teach students to verify sources, weigh evidence, & spot bias. Expand debate, primary-source analysis, & real-world simulations. Less ideology, more clarity, facts, & accountability. Focus on our great country's founding principles.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board? My education & life experience taught me accountability, critical thinking, & the value of strong foundations in reading, writing, & math. I've seen what works & what fails when standards slip & parents are sidelined. I will bring a results-driven focus, clear priorities, & common-sense leadership to restore excellence, rebuild trust with families, & ensure every student graduates truly prepared for college, vocation/career, & life. I am a life-long learner, finishing my DOL degree in 2026.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority? I do not support full funding of the Blueprint. It has to be revised. Every dollar must produce measurable gains in literacy, math, & career readiness. I will demand transparent metrics, independent audits, & local flexibility so schools can meet student needs. If cuts are necessary, protect classroom instruction, early learning that works, & teacher quality. Start by trimming bureaucracy, not student opportunity. Results, not promises, must drive every decision. Focus on students first.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs? Schools should model & teach civil discourse explicitly. Start with content-rich civics, then practice structured debate where students must argue both sides, cite evidence, & listen to respond, not react. Set clear norms: respect, facts, & accountability. Train teachers to facilitate tough conversations, not avoid them. Partner with parents to reinforce shared expectations. When classrooms are orderly & standards are clear, students learn to disagree without being disagreeable. Every day.

Tyler Walker

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position? Policy 443 raises important concerns about balancing student well-being and parental involvement. Every student deserves dignity and a safe environment. At the same time, parents must not be excluded in major decisions affecting their child's life. I support policies that protect all students from bullying while ensuring transparency, safeguarding private spaces, promoting fairness in sports, and reinforcing the essential role of parents in education.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position? I support age-appropriate standards. Parents should lead conversations about sensitive topics, with schools supporting in a limited role; ensuring school materials reflect community expectations and are suitable for minors. Explicit sexual content does not belong in school libraries or classrooms. I will support transparent review processes, clear guidelines, and parental involvement so families can trust what is being provided to students.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce? We must strengthen early literacy and math through early intervention and a strong focus on fundamentals. Schools should prioritize critical thinking, problem-solving, analyzing complex problems, and teaching students how to think, not what to think. Students also need accountability. I support expanding career and technical education, real-world skills, and partnerships with local businesses so graduates are prepared for college, careers, and life in a rapidly changing world.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation? This is exactly what I did in my classroom when I taught 12th Grade Gov! Civics education should focus on a strong understanding of our Constitution, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students should learn

how to think critically, evaluate sources, and distinguish fact from opinion. I support teaching students how to analyze information and engage in respectful discussion, without promoting political bias, so they are prepared to be informed, thoughtful participants.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?

My experience spans homeschooling, public, and private education, giving me a broad perspective on what works. I studied to become a teacher, taught in multiple states, and served students locally during the pandemic. Living with at-risk youth at the Milton Hershey School showed me how education and discipline can break cycles of poverty. Nearly 16 years in the Army, including teaching and leadership roles, along with years of coaching and community service, have prepared me to serve effectively

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?

The Blueprint has some worthwhile goals, particularly supporting teachers and student outcomes, but its mandates place significant financial strain on local systems. I do not support full implementation without greater flexibility and accountability. We must prioritize resources that directly impact student learning, especially early literacy and classroom support. Funding decisions should remain responsive to local needs and ensure dollars are used effectively for students.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

Another theme I implemented in my classroom! Schools should model and teach respectful dialogue by encouraging open discussion, critical thinking, and the ability to consider different perspectives. Students should learn how to listen, support their views with evidence, and engage respectfully with others. By focusing on shared American values like responsibility and respect, without promoting political bias, we can prepare students to be thoughtful, civil participants in society.

Chad King Wilson, Sr.

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools.

What is your position on this issue and how will you act in support of your position?I support Policy 443 because every student deserves to feel safe and respected. As a Board member, I will advocate for strong anti-bullying enforcement, staff training to support LGBTQIA+ students, and welcoming school environments. I support preferred names, inclusive student groups, and clear reporting systems, while also engaging families and the community to build understanding and protect every student's dignity and safety.

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?I oppose banning books in school curricula or libraries. Public education should expose students to diverse ideas and experiences that build critical thinking and empathy. Literature can challenge students while helping them understand the world. I support a transparent review process involving educators, parents, and librarians, with decisions based on educational value and age appropriateness—not politics. Parents can guide their own children's reading without restricting access for others.

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduate's preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?Preparing students for college and careers requires a strong pipeline from early learning through graduation. We must expand Universal Pre-K, well-resourced CTE programs, and partnerships with trade unions for career pathways. Equitable access to AP, dual enrollment, and career-focused courses, combined with project-based learning, critical thinking, and strong career counseling, ensures students graduate ready for higher education, careers, and long-term success.

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?FCPS is making great strides in developing critical thinking skills. This can be enhanced with more diverse offerings—hands-on research, community-based projects, and expanded courses. Prioritizing civil discourse and real-world problem-solving helps students become engaged citizens who analyze information, communicate respectfully, and contribute thoughtfully. I am committed to supporting these efforts for all.

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?

I am in my first two months into a board appointment. I am also in my 19th year as a classroom teacher. I've worked closely with students, families, and colleagues, often going beyond the

classroom to support academic and personal needs. As a parent, coach, and advocate, I'm committed to inclusive, equitable schools. My union leadership, bargaining, and policy experience provide practical skills for effective governance, preparing me to be a strong, student-centered voice for Frederick County.

6..Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?

I support full funding and implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which expands Pre-K, improves teacher pay, and supports students with greater needs. As a Frederick County Board of Education member, I will work with the Maryland General Assembly to secure resources. If changes are needed, priorities must be early childhood education, educator recruitment and retention, and direct student support, not cuts to core classroom investments.

7 How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

Schools prepare students to be engaged citizens by fostering environments where diverse ideas are expressed and respected. Structured discussions, debate, and collaborative problem-solving help students analyze information and engage in civil discourse. Educators and adults must model respectful communication, guiding students through complex conversations with empathy and integrity. Prioritizing these skills helps students become thoughtful, respectful contributors to democracy and society.

Support the Voters' Guide

We hope that you have found the Voters' Guide helpful in selecting candidates for this election. We invite you to support our efforts to provide more citizens with information about candidates and the election process. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Frederick County Education Fund.

\$150 ()__ \$100 ()__ \$75 ()__ \$50 ()__ \$25 ()__ other:

Send a check to:

LWVFC Education Fund.

P.O. Box 9

Frederick, MD 21705 or donate online at <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-frederick-county>

Join the League!

We invite you to be a part of making our communities FAIR, VIBRANT, and STRONG!

Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our state.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 103 years of experience, local Leagues in 16 of Maryland's counties and in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

Mail: LWVFC, P.O. Box 9, Frederick, MD 21705

Email: LWVFC@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-frederick-county>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FrederickCountyLWV/>