

THE VOTERS' GUIDE

MARYLAND GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

JUNE 23, 2026



ELIGIBILITY:

To register to vote, you must be: a US citizen, a Maryland resident, and at least 16 years old

TO REGISTER:

Visit https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Register or update name, address, and/or political party by online or by mail by **JUNE 2, 2026**

SAME DAY REGISTRATION:

Same day registration is available at all early voting centers or at your assigned polling location on Election Day.



VOTE BY MAIL:

Voting by mail is available to all registered voters. If you want to receive your mail-in ballot via mail or fax, your request must be received (not just mailed) by **JUNE 16, 2026** or request online by **JUNE 19, 2026**

To request a mail-in ballot online, visit: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinemailinrequest/InstructionsStep1>

Ballots must be postmarked by or before **JUNE 23, 2026**. Ballots may be dropped off at dropboxes or election offices by **8pm on Election Day, JUNE 23, 2026**. Visit <https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/vote2026>

EARLY VOTING:

In-person early voting is open **THURSDAY, JUNE 11 - THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 (including Saturday and Sunday) from 7 am to 8 pm**. To learn more about early voting, visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/board-elections/early-voting>. As long as you're in line by 8 pm, you will be able to cast your vote.

ELECTION DAY:

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026. This is the final day you can cast a vote. **Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm**. As long as you're in line by 8 pm, you will be able to cast your vote. Find your polling location at Vote411.org.



You can find all this information, plus the candidate responses below, tailored to you on Vote411.org. All you have to do is enter your address, and Vote411, sponsored by LWVUS, will guide you through every element of your ballot and how to vote! Use the QR code or type [vote411.org](https://Vote411.org) into your browser.



La versión en Español de la Guía del Votante está disponible en <https://www.vote411.org/es> o escaneando el código QR a la derecha. Siga las instrucciones para acceder a las respuestas de los candidatos que se postulan para cargos en su distrito.



ABOUT THE VOTERS' GUIDE

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization of men and women working to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. **The League does not support or endorse any candidate or political party.** Materials from this Guide may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission from the League. The League assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

The Voters' Guide includes only the names of the candidates on the official ballot certified by state and local officials. Some candidates may have withdrawn since the material was compiled, and not every candidate listed in the Guide will appear on every ballot.

We would like to thank all candidates who replied to the League of Women Voters questionnaire.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no primary for the Board of Education. Board of Education candidates will appear on the Voters' Guide for the election in November.

IMPORTANT PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION

In this primary election, there are a number of offices that only have candidates from one party running. Candidates from non-principal party political parties, and candidates nominated by petition may file to be a candidate after the primary election, but it is possible that the primary may determine the results of the General Election. So make sure you and everyone you know gets out to vote!

PLEASE NOTE

In keeping with League policy, the candidates’ answers in the Voters’ Guide *appear as submitted*. Thus, some misspellings, typing errors, incorrect contact information etc. may appear. If answers exceeded the specified character limitation, the additional words were cut from the end of the candidate’s statement.

Under Maryland law, the **order of candidates on the ballot** is determined first by the party of the governor, then by the principal minority party, then by other minority parties in descending order based on statewide party registration. The order of listing in this Voters’ Guide follows that directive.

TABLE OF CONTENTS*

GOVERNOR & LT GOVERNOR	3	DISTRICT 12A	12
Eric S. Felber & LaTrece Hawkins Lytes (D)	3	Jessica Feldmark (D), DIST. 12A	12
Wes Moore & Aruna Miller (D)	3	Joshua M. Heard (D), DIST. 12A	12
Carl A. Brunner, Jr.& Kevin L. Rhodes, Sr. (R)	3	Terri Hill (D) DIST. 12A	12
L. D. Burkindine & Jeremy M. Shifflett (R)	3	Frank Glover (R) DIST. 12A	12
Dan Cox & Rob Krop (R)	4	DISTRICT 13	12
Ed Hale & Tyrone Keys, Jr. (R)	4	Amy Brooks (D), DIST. 13	12
Douglas Larcomb & Martina D. Duncan (R)	4	Pam Lanman Guzzone (D), DIST. 13	13
John A. Myrick & Brenda J. Thiam (R)	4	Gabriel Maximilian Moreno (D) DIST. 13	13
Michael Oakes & Ronald W. Abend (R)	5	Mark Fisher (R), DIST. 13	13
Nancy Jane Taylor & Rachel Hannah “Mohawk” Swift (R)	5	HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE	14
Shannon Wright & Reba A. Hawkins (R)	5	Vanessa Atterbeary (D)	14
MARYLAND COMPTROLLER	6	Bob Cockey (D)	14
Brooke Elizabeth Lierman (D)	6	Deb Jung (D)	14
Sonya Dunn (R)	6	Liz Walsh (D)	15
MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL	7	HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL	16
Anthony G. Brown (D)	7	COUNCIL DISTRICT 1	16
James B. Rutledge, III (R)	7	Kevin Chin (D), DIST. 1	16
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 3	7	James D. Handley (D), DIST. 1	16
Jennifer Cross (D)	7	Jean Xu (D), DIST. 1	16
Austin Dyches (D)	8	COUNCIL DISTRICT 2	17
Sarah Elfreth (D)	8	Arinze Malcolm Ifekauche (D), DIST. 2	17
Sean Hammond (D)	8	Jessica I. Nichols (D), DIST. 2	17
Robert Gerald Morrison (D)	8	COUNCIL DISTRICT 3	18
Ray Bly (R)	8	Amir S. Naviwala (D), DIST. 3	18
Berney Flowers (R)	8	Christiana Rigby (D), DIST. 3	18
Felix M. Seier (R)	8	COUNCIL DISTRICT 4	18
John White (R)	9	Linfeng Chen (D), DIST. 4	18
MARYLAND STATE SENATE	9	Regina Clay (D), DIST. 4	19
SENATE DISTRICT 9	9	Janssen Evelyn (D), DIST. 4	19
Katie Fry Hester (D), DIST. 9	9	Shamieka Preston (D), DIST. 4	19
Ben Hightower (R), DIST. 9	9	COUNCIL DISTRICT 5	20
SENATE DISTRICT 12	10	Cat Carter (D), DIST. 5	20
Clarence Lam (D), DIST. 12	10	Felita Phillips (D), DIST. 5	20
SENATE DISTRICT 13	10	Ryan P. O’Connor (R), DIST. 5	20
Guy Guzzone (D), DIST. 13	10	JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, CIRCUIT 5	21
MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES	10	Maurice C. Frazier	21
DISTRICT 9A	10	HOWARD COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY	21
Chao Wu (D), DIST. 9A	10	Rich Gibson (D)	21
Natalie Ziegler (D), DIST. 9A	10	CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT	21
Fitzgerald Mofo (R), DIST. 9A	11	Jen Terrasa (D)	21
Spencer Rhoda (R), 9A	11	REGISTER OF WILLS	21
DISTRICT 9B	11	Ajile F. Brown (D)	21
Abdun Matin (D), DIST. 9B	11	Byron E. Macfarlane (D)	22
Courtney Watson (D), DIST. 9B	11	HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF	22
		Marcus Harris (D)	22

*CANDIDATES FOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITEES CAN BE FOUND ON VOTE411.ORG

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

GOVERNOR & LT GOVERNOR

DESCRIPTION

DUTIES: The Governor is the 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 health-care. 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?

ERIC S. FELBER & LATRECE HAWKINS LYLES (D)

felberforgovernor.org

RESPONSES

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 & ARUNA MILLER (D)

wesmoore.com

RESPONSES

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.

CARLA A. BRUNNER, JR.& KEVIN L. RHODES, SR. (R)

No response received by print deadline.

L. D. BURKINDINE & JEREMY M. SHIFFLETT (R)

www.ldburkindineforgovernor.com/

RESPONSES

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.

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

L. D. BURKINDINE & JEREMY M. SHIFFLETT (R), CON'T

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 & ROB KROP (R)

No response received by print deadline.

ED HALE & TYRONE KEYS, JR. (R)

haleforgov.com

RESPONSES

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 & MARTINA D. DUNCAN (R)

No website provided

RESPONSES

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 & BRENDA J. THIAM (R)

johnmyrickformdgovernor.org

RESPONSES

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

John A. Myrick & Brenda J. Thiam (R), Con't

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

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

JOHN A. MYRICK &
BRENDA J. THIAM (R)

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 & RONALD W.
ABEND (R)

no website provided.

RESPONSES

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 & RACHEL
HANNAH “MOHAWK” SWIFT (R)

no website provided.

RESPONSES

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=POISON

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 & REBA A.
HAWKINS (R)

wright4maryland.com

RESPONSES

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.”

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

SHANNON WRIGHT & REBA A. HAWKINS (R), CON'T

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 OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER

DESCRIPTION

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 the 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?

BROOKE ELIZABETH LIERMAN (D)

brookelierman.com

RESPONSES

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.

SONYA DUNN (R)

www.votesonyadunn.com

RESPONSES

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: A: 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.

SCAM ALERT!

There have been reports of scammer phoning citizens telling them not to vote.

Any phone call that gives instructions **not to vote is a scam**. If you believe you have received a scam election call, please **report it immediately to 410-269-2880** and the Office of the Attorney General’s **Consumer Protection Division at 410-528-8662**.

If you receive any unsolicited **phone calls, texts or emails** that purport to be from candidates or parties and **ask for your personal information, do not reply**. These messages could be scammers trying to trick people into giving them money under the guise of a donation.

There are also reports of text messages from the Board of Elections **telling voters they are not registered. The MD Board of Elections only sends text messages to people who have already registered** to vote. If you received a text message about your registration, you should proceed with caution, and ensure that you have navigated to an official State of Maryland website before you enter any personal information by looking for “maryland.gov” in a website’s URL.

MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

DESCRIPTION

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?

ANTHONY G. BROWN (D)

No response received by print deadline. See Vote411.org

JAMES B. RUTLEDGE, III (R)

www.electjim.com
RESPONSES

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.



The Attorney General plays a crucial role in protecting the civil rights of Marylanders.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 3

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 3

DESCRIPTION

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 health-care. 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?

NOTE: All of Howard County is in Maryland District 3.

JENNIFER CROSS (D)

www.jencrossforcongress.com
RESPONSES

ELECTIONS: I will introduce legislation that requires voter identification with free state issued identification, paper ballot backups, routine audits, transparent chain of custody standards, and regularly updated voter rolls. These reforms will protect every lawful vote, ensure accurate counts, and strengthen public confidence through clear and uniform rules nationwide.

IMMIGRATION: I support those who were brought in under Biden. Because they were allowed in I think they have the right to be here. I will introduce legislation that secures the border, accelerates asylum decisions, and strengthens enforcement of federal immigration law.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 3

JENNIFER CROSS (D), CON'T

I will also propose a fast track legal status process for individuals admitted under recent policies so they can resolve their status lawfully, work legally, and contribute without fear of removal.

AFFORDABILITY: I will introduce legislation that expands domestic energy production, reduces unnecessary federal regulation, and increases housing supply through incentives for zoning reform and new construction. I will support tax relief for working families, expanded childcare options, healthcare price transparency, and housing down payment assistance programs that do not require repayment.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: I will support policies that maintain a strong national defense, strengthen strategic alliances, and expand trade partnerships that benefit American workers. The United States should lead through principled diplomacy and deterrence while respecting national sovereignty. I will prioritize stability, conflict prevention, and engagement that advances our interests without unnecessary intervention in other nations internal affairs.

SAFETY NET: I will introduce legislation that protects Social Security and Medicare while strengthening long term stability and accountability. I will propose reforms that allow citizens limited and structured access to the Social Security funds they have paid into, similar to a retirement account, in defined circumstances such as the death of a spouse or verified financial hardship, while preserving program solvency and fairness.

AUSTIN DYCHES (D)

www.austinformaryland.com

RESPONSES

ELECTIONS: I support automatic and same-day voter registration, making Election Day a federal holiday, expanding early voting and vote by mail, and restoring the full Voting Rights Act. I also support D.C. and Puerto Rico statehood.

IMMIGRATION: No. Our current immigration system is unjust and cruel. ICE operates as a rogue agency with virtually no accountability. I support abolishing ICE, and reforming our current immigration system to ensure people can get documents quickly. We welcome immigrants in America, and I want to reform our system to reflect that.

AFFORDABILITY: I'm fighting for a \$25 minimum wage and Medicare for All. We need to eliminate premiums and copays, universal childcare, and housing as a human right through massive investment in public housing and national rent control. We need to cancel student debt, make public college tuition-free, and guarantee universal free school meals.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: The U.S. should lead through diplomacy, not endless war. We must stop enabling war and genocide, and instead invest in humanitarian aid, climate cooperation, and human rights. Our foreign policy should reflect our values, not the interests of defense contractors and lobbying groups like AIPAC.

SAFETY NET: I will never allow cuts to Social Security or Medicare. I support expanding both by raising the cap on Social Security

taxes so the wealthy pay their fair share. I'm fighting for Medicare for All, universal housing, and guaranteed paid family leave. Every person deserves healthcare, food, and housing. I'll oppose any attempt to means-test or privatize these programs and will fund them through progressive taxation on billionaires and corporations.

SARAH ELFRETH (D)

www.elfrethformaryland.com

RESPONSES

ELECTIONS: I remain deeply committed to ensuring free and fair elections, especially amid the President's threat to disenfranchise voters and the Supreme Court's unfounded review of the Voting Rights Act. I voted no twice on the SAVE Act and will oppose any effort to restrict ballot access. I co-sponsored the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and believe in eliminating racial discrimination, restoring federal protections, and safeguarding our democracy.

IMMIGRATION: When ICE sends under-trained agents into our communities with guns, masks, and no regard for due process, the public trust is eroded. I voted no on funding for ICE and DHS, fought to halt a detention center in Elkridge, signed onto impeachment articles for Secretary Noem, and called for an independent investigation and accountability in Minneapolis. I believe we need commonsense, bipartisan reforms to our immigration system that make our neighbors safer.

AFFORDABILITY: From BGE bills to grocery store prices, hardworking families across Maryland are feeling the pinch. As a founding member of the Lowering Cost Caucus, I co-sponsored the Access to Homeownership Act to strengthen renters' credit, the Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act, and the No Tariffs on Groceries Act. I've opposed the President's illegal price-rising tariffs. I've convened Childcare Roundtables with local leaders, worked on strengthening childcare centers for military families, and more.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Like many in my generation, I hold deep reservations regarding the President's reckless attacks abroad and the potential of another forever war in the Middle East, which would have a serious cost for servicemembers and American families. As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I believe the U.S. must be steadfast in supporting Ukraine, strengthening our democratic alliances, and advancing diplomacy that protects our American values.

SAFETY NET: I voted no twice on the Big Beautiful Bill and its cruel Medicaid and SNAP cuts. As a co-sponsor of Medicare for All, I believe Americans deserve affordable, accessible health care and retirement security they've paid into their whole lives. Reckless firings at Social Security and other agencies by this Administration created de facto cuts to earned benefits and delayed services that seniors and families rely on. I will oppose efforts to privatize or weaken these lifelines for Marylanders.

SEAN HAMMOND (D)

No response received by print deadline. See Vote411.org

ROBERT GERALD MORRISON (D)

No response received by print deadline

RAY BLY (R)

No response received by print deadline

BERNEY FLOWERS (R)

flowersformaryland.com

RESPONSES

ELECTIONS: Every voter deserves confidence that elections are fair and accurate. I support voter ID, regular maintenance of voter rolls, secure chain-of-custody for ballots, and transparent post-election audits. Safeguards like signature verification for mail ballots help ensure every legal vote counts. The goal is simple: make it easy to vote and hard to cheat, so Americans trust the results.

IMMIGRATION: I support enforcing our immigration laws, but the current system isn't working well. We need a secure border, consistent enforcement, and faster processing so people who want to immigrate legally can do so. America is a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws — our policies must respect both while creating an orderly, fair system.

AFFORDABILITY: Maryland families need relief from rising costs. I'll fight for fiscal discipline to control inflation, expand American energy production to lower fuel and utility costs, reduce federal barriers that make housing more expensive, and increase competition and transparency in healthcare. Government should remove obstacles so businesses can grow and families can keep more of what they earn.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: The U.S. must lead with strength, defend our allies, and deter adversaries. We preserve peace through strong alliances, a capable military, and smart diplomacy. Leadership means using our power wisely — balancing defense, economic influence, and diplomacy — to keep Americans and our allies safe while promoting global stability.

SAFETY NET: I will protect programs for those who truly need them—seniors, people with disabilities, and struggling families—by ensuring they are financially sustainable, reducing waste, and improving oversight. Programs like Social Security Administration and Medicare must remain reliable so Maryland's most vulnerable can count on support when they need it most.

FELIX M. SEIER (R)

www.felixseier.com

RESPONSES

ELECTIONS: I support modernizing Maryland's elections with secure online voting options, starting with verified pilots for overseas voters and voters with disabilities. I back strong cybersecurity standards, transparent ballot handling, bipartisan oversight, and routine audits to ensure every lawful vote is counted accurately.

IMMIGRATION: I do not support the current approach to enforcing federal immigration laws because it too often lacks transparency, due process protections, and meaningful oversight.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 3

FELIX M. SEIER (R), CON'T

I support reforms that ensure enforcement is lawful, humane, and accountable — with clear limits, independent review, and a focus on protecting families, workers, and constitutional rights.

AFFORDABILITY: Living costs stay high because huge tax-exempt institutions—mega-churches, elite universities, and large nonprofits—hold vast land and wealth while contributing little to public needs. I support ending exemptions for large institutions so

we can fund affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, and especially public education for every child.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: The U.S. should lead by strengthening global stability, scientific cooperation, and shared prosperity. Our role is to reduce tensions, avoid zero-sum conflict, and work with other nations on climate, technology, and public health. America is strongest when it builds alliances and partnerships that make the world safer and more prosperous.

SAFETY NET: Maryland’s safety net

is strained because huge tax-exempt institutions—mega-churches, elite universities, and large nonprofits—hold vast land and wealth while contributing little to public needs. I support ending exemptions for large institutions so we can fund housing, healthcare, food assistance, disability services, and strong public education for vulnerable Marylanders.

JOHN WHITE (R)

No response received by print deadline.

MARYLAND STATE SENATE

MARYLAND STATE SENATE

DESCRIPTION

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?

SENATE DISTRICT 9

KATIE FRY HESTER (D), DIST. 9

katiefryster.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: Only with guardrails. Data centers can bring jobs and local revenue, but we can not allow them to drive-up electric bills, strain water supplies and impact communities. We are already paying \$10-\$20/month more due to data center costs. I fought to pass legislation to ensure data centers pay a higher electricity price to cover the full cost of their energy - not Maryland households. The Utility RELIEF Act also increases transparency and encourages data centers to bring their own clean energy.

UTILITY COSTS: My priority is affordable, reliable power. Energy bills are too high due to increased demand and un-checked utility infrastructure projects. I’ve pushed for a regional price cap on capacity costs and for data centers to pay for their full energy impact. We must ensure strong oversight of utility rate cases and supplemental projects.

This year I introduced SB 992 to strengthen oversight and tariffs for data centers and SB 2 to stop ratepayers from funding excessive utility salaries and bonuses.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes -public transportation is essential for jobs, safety, and quality of life. We need more practical options in District 9, like bus rapid transport. I’ve worked with MDOT on safer bike routes and continue pushing State Highway to improve safety at choke points on Rt. 32 and variable speed limits on Rt 70 based on weather concerns. I support funding to repair aging infrastructure and keep projects moving responsibly to shorten commutes and support economic growth.

BUDGET: Maryland must live within its means. My top priorities are protecting taxpayers, maintaining excellent schools, and funding essential public safety and services efficiently. I focus on controlling spending, eliminating waste, and growing the economy so we can meet our obligations to keep our communities safe and strong without placing unnecessary burdens on families, seniors, or small businesses.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are valued community members: workers, business owners, and neighbors. We need

comprehensive federal reform that provides a legal path to citizenship. At the same time, we can NOT tolerate unconstitutional law enforcement practices that create chaos and disruption through secrecy, intimidation, and inhumane conditions, like those at the Baltimore ICE holding center. I support policies that keep families safe, uphold the law, and allow immigrants to fully contribute to our economy.

BEN HIGHTOWER (R), DIST. 9

www.benhightower.org

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: I support data center development with conditions. Maryland’s grid is strained — we import 40% of our electricity at volatile prices. New facilities must not worsen grid instability or raise costs for ratepayers. Water and land use impacts must be reviewed at the county level, not dictated from Annapolis. Done right, data centers are a win. Done carelessly, they deepen our energy crisis.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland families face a two-sided squeeze. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 retired power plants before replacement capacity was ready, creating a supply gap driving prices up. BGE has exploited grid instability to push through rate increases families cannot absorb. I will oppose premature plant retirements, demand full transparency in BGE’s rate-setting, and fight to expand Maryland’s in-state energy generation while preserving our environment.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation works when built around real community needs, demonstrated ridership, and fiscal accountability. District 9 is primarily suburban, but seniors, veterans, and working families have real transit needs. I support locally driven investments like the Flash BRT extension. I will oppose Annapolis mandating one-size-fits-all transit spending without county input and a clear funding plan.

BUDGET: My three priorities: Energy — invest in in-state generation and block ratepayer cost-shifting. Public Safety and Mental Health — fund law enforcement recruitment and mental health services together; one strengthens the other. Business Climate — repeal the 3% IT tax, permanently kill the B2B services tax, and cut compliance costs that are driving businesses out of Maryland.

MARYLAND STATE SENATE		
BEN HIGHTOWER (R), DIST. 9	SENATE DISTRICT 12	SENATE DISTRICT 13
IMMIGRATION: District 9's immigrant neighbors — business owners, engineers, and community builders — make us stronger. I will cut the red tape burdening immigrant entrepreneurs and expand economic opportunity for those who came here legally. I draw a clear line: I fully support legal immigration and oppose sanctuary policies that conflict with federal law. A fair system requires consistent enforcement.	NOTE: <i>Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.</i>	NOTE: <i>Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.</i>
	CLARENCE LAM (D), DIST. 12	GUY GUZZONE (D), DIST. 13
	No response received by print deadline.	No response received by print deadline.

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES		
MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES	DISTRICT 9A	STEM and Emerging Technology Caucus to support these efforts in 2026.
DESCRIPTION	Maryland House District 9A is represented by TWO delegates. You will be selecting up to two candidates on your ballot.	IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of Maryland's economy and communities. As a first-generation immigrant, I believe every law-abiding Maryland resident should feel safe and welcome. I support policies that protect personal data, maintain trust between communities and institutions, and expand access to education, jobs, and small-business opportunities for immigrant families. Successes from our immigrant communities are successes of Maryland, which bring belongings and pride to all of us.
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.	CHAO WU (D), DIST. 9A	NATALIE ZIEGLER (D), DIST. 9A
HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in most districts may vote for three delegates.	www.chaowu.org	www.nataliefordelegate.com
TERM: Four years, no term limit.	RESPONSES	RESPONSES
SALARY: \$55,636.	DATA CENTERS: As an AI data scientist and policy architect, I support responsible development of data centers. They are essential infrastructures for AI, and our digital economy, bringing high paying jobs and tax revenue. Hoenergy production, require efficient water usage and conservation, modernize power grid, and ensure large energy users, like data centers, help manage peak demand, , bring up their own energy and share the cost, so Marylanders are not burdened with higher utility bills.	DATA CENTERS: If we don't allow any data centers in MD, our electric rates will go up but we won't get any tax revenue. That said, we need to carefully control where they are located and ensure that ratepayers don't foot the bill for the increased electricity and water they require.
WEBSITE: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebiste/	UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs are driven by regional market in PJM, growing energy demand, aging infrastructure, and reliance on imported electricity. I am working with legislators across the PJM region to push for market reforms, expand Maryland's energy generation (nuclear, wind, solar, thermal and all other forms), and ensure large energy users share infrastructure costs. My goal is reliable, affordable energy for Maryland families.	UTILITY COSTS: Increasing demand, in large part from data centers, is the biggest factor, along with what some see as overly aggressive construction and repair projects, paid for by ratepayers. We need to ensure that data centers are bringing their own generation and/or paying for the excess demand they place on the grid, and we need to generate more renewable energy. The General Assembly has passed legislation to help bring down rates and continues to work on that top priority.
QUESTIONS	I proposed a bill to expand nuclear power generation in MD in 2024.	TRANSPORTATION: We absolutely need to increase public transportation across the state, to deal with traffic congestion, lower emissions, and get people where they need to go. For my district, the bus rapid transit projects between Howard and Montgomery counties that are in the planning stages will be a tremendous help.
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?	TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Improving public transportation strengthens our economy, reduces congestion and pollution, increases road safety, and expands job opportunities. Maryland should continue investing in Metro, MARC, rapid bus systems, last-mile connections and public roads, so residents can reliably reach jobs, schools, and services. Smart transit investments also create enw jobs, support environmental goals and create more connected, accessible communities. Continuous and reliable investment are needed.	BUDGET: The federal cuts to Medicaid are devastating, and I will prioritize keeping access to health care for our most vulnerable citizens, including the disabled. I'm working on a bill that would prohibit pharmaceutical companies from deducting direct-to-consumer drug ads from their taxes, and would give the revenue raised to Medicaid and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Another top priority is education and funding for the blueprint, along with the environment and transportation.
UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?	BUDGET: Maryland must maintain a balanced budget while investing in our future. My top priorities are better education, smarter infrastructure, safe community, and sustainable workforce. I support sufficiently funding our education, strengthening transportation and energy infrastructure, and expanding STEM and apprenticeship programs so Maryland residents are prepared for all types of jobs of tomorrow. I started Maryland Legislative	
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?		

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

NATALIE ZIEGLER (D), DIST. 9A

IMMIGRATION: As a farmer, I am keenly aware of the importance of immigrant labor to farms and to Maryland's economy. It has been heartwarming to see communities stepping up to help immigrant neighbors, and I support funding for access to healthcare and educational opportunities for our immigrant workforce.

FITZGERALD MOFOR (R), DIST. 9A

www.mofor4md.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: I support data centers only when they are paired with responsible infrastructure planning. They must provide their own power, protect local water supplies, and avoid burdening ratepayers. When properly sited and self-sustaining, they can bring jobs and investment without straining Maryland's grid or communities.

UTILITY COSTS: Utility costs are rising because of regulatory mandates, energy shortages, and lack of energy production in our state. Maryland must expand affordable energy options, reduce excessive fees, and while thinking towards the future and nuclear energy. I will push for policies that lower costs at the source and ensure families and small businesses aren't paying for policy mistakes.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, Maryland needs better public transportation, but solutions must fit each region. Rural and suburban areas need flexible, cost-effective options, while urban areas need reliability and safety improvements. Smarter planning and not one-size-fits-all mandates will help people get to work, reduce congestion, and support economic growth.

BUDGET: After Marylanders were forced to endure the largest tax increase ever at \$1.6 billion and face a \$4 billion deficit by 2030, one of my top priorities will be affordability and fiscal responsibility. I plan to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in different agencies, roll back superfluous spending, and deliver on tax relief to middle-class families. I also plan to invest in public safety and infrastructure. Maryland must focus on fiscal responsibility and tax relief for working families.

IMMIGRATION: Illegal immigration harms our communities and jeopardizes public safety. It also forces localities to strain their budget to provide social safety nets that should go to taxpayers. However, I am in support of legal immigration, which can strengthen Maryland's economy and communities. I will support legal immigrant families by improving access to workforce programs and small-business support.

SPENCER RHODA (R), 9A

www.voterhoda.org

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: Data Centers present a huge opportunity for our state. Our neighbor states are harnessing taxes and fees paid by data centers to improve their energy infrastructure, while Maryland sits on the sidelines. The general assembly has done little to regulate data centers other

than to offer them a sales and use tax exemption incentive program. My plan calls for using natural gas production as a bridge to a 100% clean nuclear powered future, paid for entirely by data centers.

UTILITY COSTS: The primary reason that we are in an energy crisis in Maryland today: legislators have removed fossil fuel energy production from our state, catering to a misguided climate agenda. Bureaucrats in Annapolis that seek to blame the grid operator or the utility companies need to take a look in the mirror.

TRANSPORTATION: Reliable, affordable and accessible public transportation is perhaps the most important economic equalizer and absolutely essential to giving all Marylanders the opportunity to travel around our state for work and pleasure. I have taken a great deal of public transportation throughout my life, and it has never been worse or less enjoyable than it is today.

BUDGET: Maryland becomes a partner with energy producers to become a leading regional energy producer. We will make all the energy our citizens need within our state, and more to sell. If we do not make Maryland a net energy exporter, our energy costs will continue to rise. Through a public private partnership with energy producers, we can sell energy to data centers and use the profits to build out our nuclear infrastructure, which is the only viable path to a 100% clean energy future.

IMMIGRATION: My dad lived in Asia for a decade, and I saw the process of returning to Maryland with his wife. I have a great respect for the immigrants who risked everything to come here. Welcoming in new members from those communities, especially those related to our current residents, should be easier. Why don't we prioritize our immigrant communities when addressing immigration policy? Because our leaders prioritize national politics. I will fight harder for Asian communities than your current rep.

DISTRICT 9B

NOTE: *Because there are no Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.*

Maryland District 9B is represented by ONE delegate. You will be selecting one candidate on your ballot.

ABDUN MATIN (D), DIST. 9B

vote4matin9b.org

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: I strongly oppose the construction of data centers in proximity to residential areas or nature preserves. Data centers are constructed disproportionately near Black and brown communities and may have harmful effects on these residents, including spiking utility costs. Data centers may bring economic benefits, but we must take actions that don't contribute further to climate change and environmental degradation, and that won't hurt our fellow Marylanders.

UTILITY COSTS: The overconstruction of data centers, industrial expansion near residential areas, and the lack of clean

energy infrastructure all contribute to escalating utility costs that are hurting Marylanders. I will commit to opposing the expansion of data centers across the state to reduce strain on Marylanders trying to pay their bills. Also, investing in clean energy infrastructure is more sustainable long-term and will increase energy reliability during weather events, bringing down utility costs.

TRANSPORTATION: I am absolutely in favor of improving public transit. Our society has suffered as a result of a lack of public transportation. The lack of public transportation has isolated communities from one another and restricted the movement of lower-income or Americans with disabilities. Public transit is the future of low-carbon, sustainable transportation. It is safer than cars, more accessible, more pedestrian-friendly, and contains many social and communal benefits, and I support its improvement.

BUDGET: 1. Healthcare & mental health – Expanding access to mental health care; Medicare for All

2. Public Education – Advocating for salary increase for teachers and safe, modern, and well-resourced schools; supporting gun-control laws.

3. Housing affordability – Advocating for increased housing affordability by increasing amount of moderate-income housing units (MIHU); advocating to lower rental property yearly increases

IMMIGRATION: I stand firmly in support of all immigrant communities in Maryland. I will work to prevent the creation of detention centers in our state. I will stand firmly against the federal government's crackdown on hardworking communities. I will enforce the recently passed ban on law enforcement cooperation with ICE and DHS staff. Immigrants should feel safe in Maryland, and I will work to make that a reality.

COURTNEY WATSON (D), DIST. 9B

www.courtneywatson9b.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can strengthen our economy, but also strain water systems and the power grid, while negatively impacting residential areas. I support them only when they meet strict requirements to pay for their impact on infrastructure, locate in appropriate areas, and holistically support our communities. Above all, residents should not pay to subsidize the costs of data centers.

UTILITY COSTS: Factors include new data center energy demands, aging infrastructure that requires replacement, and policies of PJM, the regional organization that manages electricity flow for 13 states including Maryland. We have passed legislation this session to reduce costs and we must accelerate alternative clean energy sources, as well as work to change counterproductive policies of PJM that hurt consumers.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, the state needs to continue to invest in public transportation as it connects people to jobs, lowers time spent in traffic thereby increasing quality of life, and reduces greenhouse gases.

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

COURTNEY WATSON (D), DIST. 9B

Priorities are to expand rapid bus, regular bus, and rail service as well as invest in the maintenance of the aging infrastructure.

BUDGET: Affordability, education, and healthcare are my top three priorities as they impact short and long-term quality of life for Maryland families. I am a supporter of Maryland Blueprint for Education, have voted to use state funds to replace federal healthcare subsidies for the most vulnerable, and am working to reduce costs in several areas including housing, healthcare, childcare, utility bills, and prescription drugs.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants support Maryland’s economy, and it is important to provide pathways to education, jobs, and healthcare. I will continue to support funding for community-based services, including assistance with naturalization, instate tuition through the Maryland DREAM act, and prenatal and children’s health programs. Further, I support protecting law abiding and longtime community embedded immigrants, and especially childhood arrivals, from overzealous federal immigration policies in Maryland.

DISTRICT 12A

Maryland House District 12A is represented by TWO delegates. You will be selecting up to two candidates on your ballot.

JESSICA FELDMARK (D), DIST. 12A

jessicafeldmark.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: The key questions are: At what cost and at whose cost? We should not expect residents to subsidize data centers as taxpayers nor as ratepayers for electricity and water. If data centers are being built in Maryland, they must be open about their plans, properly sited to prevent negative impacts on communities, generate their own clean energy, and fully mitigate their environmental impacts. Communities deserve full transparency with ongoing environmental health monitoring and accountability.

UTILITY COSTS: There are many factors leading to escalating utility costs, but the primary cause that we have the best ability to impact is that demand is skyrocketing, largely because of AI and data centers, while energy generation remains flat. The best way to address this issue is to incentivize power sources that can be built and operational in the shortest amount of time. In this regard, solar power is the most efficient option and should be a primary focus of our energy policy.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, public transportation is a fundamental component of our transportation infrastructure. It is critically important not only to its riders but also to employers for their employees, to businesses for their customers, to drivers in their own cars who would face even more traffic congestion without public transportation, and to our environment. I am proud to support public transportation and look forward to making more progress on this important issue.

BUDGET: Education funding will continue to be a top priority. It is our most important investment not only in our youth, but also in the future of our workforce, economy, and democracy. We must also fund services and assistance to help our most vulnerable neighbors, especially as we work to protect Marylanders from the chaos and cruelty of the Trump Administration. Finally, we must ensure proper funding of critical state services, staffing, and infrastructure.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are essential to our community and should feel self and welcome. I am committed to expanding immigrants’ access to opportunity and services and to protecting their rights. Fear makes immigrants particularly vulnerable to bad actors among employers, landlords, and predatory businesses. We must ensure that immigrants feel safe seeking enforcement whenever they are taken advantage of or are victims or witnesses of crime so they can report without fear for their own safety or status.

JOSHUA M. HEARD (D), DIST. 12A

www.joshuaheardfordelegate.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: I support responsible data center development, but not at the expense of our communities. Projects must meet strict standards on energy use, water consumption, and land impact. We need transparency and proper planning so growth doesn’t strain our grid or raise costs for residents. Economic benefits should not come with long-term burdens on families.

UTILITY COSTS: Utility costs are rising due to multiple factors, including energy supply constraints, infrastructure costs, and decisions by grid operators like PJM. We need stronger oversight, more transparency in rate-setting, and investment in reliable, affordable energy. I will fight to protect ratepayers and ensure families are not unfairly burdened by rising costs.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Expanding public transportation is critical for economic opportunity, reducing congestion, and improving quality of life. We need more reliable and connected transit options across Maryland so people can get to work, school, and essential services safely and affordably, regardless of where they live.

BUDGET: My top priorities are education, affordable housing, and public safety. I will fight to fully fund our schools, expand access to housing, and invest in safe communities. We must also ensure fiscal responsibility by prioritizing programs that deliver real results and make government more efficient and accountable.

IMMIGRATION: I will support policies that protect immigrant communities, expand access to resources, and ensure fair treatment under the law. That includes access to education, workforce opportunities, and legal protections. Strong, inclusive communities make Maryland stronger, and I will work to ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

TERRI HILL (D) DIST. 12A

No response received by print deadline.

FRANK GLOVER (R) DIST. 12A

No response received by print deadline.

DISTRICT 13

Maryland House District 13 is represented by THREE delegates. You will be selecting up to three candidates on your ballot.

AMY BROOKS (D), DIST. 13

brooksformaryland.org

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: I am not in support of establishing additional data centers in Maryland until more research has been done to weigh the cost versus the benefit of these initiatives. Furthermore, any decision that has a significant impact on the surrounding community and the environment needs thorough discussion among stakeholders, namely, residents who live in the area.

UTILITY COSTS: While many factors have contributed to the increased cost of delivering electricity to Marylanders, including, but not limited to, increases in electric cars, retiring older electric facilities, and expanding AI centers, it is essential that we move ahead with transparency. Lawmakers must streamline the permitting process for new in-state energy projects and ensure data centers pay for the infrastructure upgrades they require.

TRANSPORTATION: Absolutely! With the rise of Uber and Lyft across Maryland, it is clear that we want more transportation options beyond owning a car. It has been shown repeatedly that public transportation improves community connections, supports business growth (by supporting both workers and customers), and reduces environmental harm. Green buses and solar/electric options can reduce both air pollution and noise pollution. These shifts need to be incentivized/subsidized to ensure broad utilization.

BUDGET: My top three budget priorities will be economic growth, expanded housing options, and improved education infrastructure. Maryland is a wonderful place to live and work, but our jobs, housing, and schools must continue to improve if we want to be a national leader.

IMMIGRATION: As a delegate, I will stay in conversation with immigrant community members because this is an evolving situation. Everyone who lives in Maryland deserves to be safe from violence and protected from harassment. Everyone must be afforded due process if there are legal concerns. MD Legislators need to stop any actions that violate the rights of people within our state. With federal overreach a constant threat, we will need to respond swiftly and definitively using all the tools at our disposal.

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

PAM LANMAN GUZZONE (D), DIST. 13

peopleforpam.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: While I am not 100% against data centers, I do believe that we need to better understand the their impacts; especially on the grid, on water, and on the longer term employment and economic development projections in the counties and the state before projects are approved and construction begins.Regarding additional power grid needs, I do not believe that citizens (rate payers) should be paying for upgrades needed to power data centers - especially for centers being built outside of Maryland.

UTILITY COSTS: There are a number of factors that contribute to Maryland’s utility costs and over this winter many of them impacted the costs we saw. Tariffs and inflations contributed and a colder than usual winter meant more energy to stay warm. Regional energy distribution costs are increasing in part due to data center energy needs. Energy generation costs are up due to capital projects we pay for over many years. 2026’s Utility RELIEF Act is designed to address these challenges, I will vote for this bill.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, and it needs to be safe, reliable and targeted. It’s harder than ever for our lower income earners and younger people to afford the costs of car. Increases in older populations mean they will need better access to transit and our disabled community has always needed better access. Better systems can get people to work for less than the cost of driving. More transit use is better environmentally. Let’s use data to match vehicle type to need, improve routes, and make transit the way to go.

BUDGET: My top three budget priorities are: 1) Education: continue to fund the Blueprint to ensure all children get a solid educational foundation is vital to ensuring everyone’s future. 2) Address the impacts of loss in federal funds (Medicaid and SNAP): this affects our most vulnerable citizens and can have negative ripple effects like more hospital emergency room care - the most expensive type of health care. 3) Child Care Scholarship: it helps families pay for care and enables work outside the home.

IMMIGRATION: Protecting the rights and safety of all the people in our communities is vital. I voted in favor of ending 287(g) agreements. I support legislation to block ICE detention centers in the State. I believe all law enforcement personnel should wear name badges and be unmasked. I support

efforts, including by local nonprofits, to assist whether through legal aide or food, medical and/or educational supports to families living in fear; the vast majority are our hard working, tax paying neighbors.

GABRIEL MAXIMILIAN MORENO (D) DIST. 13

morenoformaryland.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: Data centers should not be approved without stringent oversight. If a project strain our grid, drains water, or harms neighborhoods it should not move forward. I support a strong statewide framework that requires full environmental review, enforceable energy and water limits, and binding community benefits so working families are not left with higher bills and worse pollution. Data centers appear to centralize wealth in the owners while socializing the costs which is not sustainable.

UTILITY COSTS: Utility costs are rising from higher supply and delivery charges. PJM costs show up monthly, and delivery hikes fund grid upgrades and gas line work with approved cost recovery for overspending. Renters pay line charges and efficiency fees. I will push tougher oversight by the Public Service Commission, cap frequent rate hikes, and use historic projections instead of future projections to calculate costs so savings reach renters and low income households, not just homeowners.

TRANSPORTATION : Yes. Transportation is an equity issue and a climate issue. Maryland should expand reliable frequent public transit so people can get to work, school, childcare, and healthcare without being forced to own a car. I support major investment in transit and safe walking and biking infrastructure with funding that prioritizes communities that have been historically underserved.

BUDGET: My three top priorities are education, disability supports, and the environment. Education means equitable funding, safer, modern schools, and fair pay for educators, with strong mental health services. Disability means stronger accessibility and independence supports, and fair pay for the workers and caregivers who support Marylanders with disabilities. Environme nt means advancing clean energy, protecting the Chesapeake Bay, and building climate resilience.

IMMIGRATION: Maryland must be a safe place to live and raise a family, no matter where you were born. As the only immigration attorney in the House of Delegates, I will expand language access

and protect personal data. I voted to end state cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, and I have introduced legislation to protect immigrants. I will also support legal services, worker protections, and programs that help immigrant families access schools, healthcare, and good jobs without fear.

MARK FISHER (R), DIST. 13

markfish erformd.com

RESPONSES

DATA CENTERS: I support responsible data center growth that brings jobs and investment, but not at the expense of residents. We must require infrastructure upgrades, protect our water supply, and ensure communities are not burdened with higher utility costs. Growth should be strategic, transparent, and aligned with long term sustainability.

UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs are driven by infrastructure strain, energy supply constraints, and policy decisions that shift costs to consumers. We need stronger oversight, smarter energy planning, and investment in reliable, diversified energy sources. My focus is protecting ratepayers while ensuring long term grid stability and affordability.

TRANSPORTATION: : Yes, but it must be practical and efficient. Expanding public transportation can reduce congestion and improve access to jobs, but investments should focus on reliability, safety, and routes people will actually use. We need balanced solutions that include roads, transit, and local needs, not one size fits all approaches.

BUDGET: My top priorities are public safety, economic opportunity, and cost of living relief. I will fight for responsible spending that protects core services, supports small businesses, and invests in infrastructure that drives growth. We must also increase transparency and accountability to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants contribute to our economy and communities. We should support policies that promote opportunity, workforce participation, and access to essential services while maintaining public safety and the rule of law. The goal is a balanced approach that respects people, strengthens communities, and supports long term stability.

MISINFORMATION ABOUT “VOTE FLIPPING”

Rumors have stirred fears that a person’s vote will be “flipped” after voting from the candidate they selected to an opponent.

This rumor is untrue. Most voters in Maryland will use a paper ballot to vote. With paper ballots, a vote for Candidate A cannot “flip” to Candidate B.

Some voters will use the accessible ballot marking device to make selections and print a paper ballot. Each device is tested before election day, and the test includes checking that the device’s screen is properly calibrated.

LWVHC CANDIDATE FORUM

Did you miss the 2026 Primary Election Candidate Forum? You can find the recording of our forum with candidates for the House of Delegates, County Executive and County Council on our YouTube channel. Scan the QR code to access it.



HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DESCRIPTION
DUTIES: Proposes and administers the operating and capital budgets, carries out policies established by legislation, interacts with the state and other local governments, helps citizens resolve concerns and oversees county departments. TERM: Four years, two term limit SALARY: \$232,687 HOW ELECTED: Countywide
QUESTIONS
REVENUE: How would you reallocate funds or raise revenue to meet the new legally mandated educational spending along with other priorities important to county residents? AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Do you believe that affordable housing is an issue that needs to be addressed in Howard County, and if so, how would you address it? CHILD & ELDER CARE: Do you believe there is an issue with the availability and affordability of quality childcare and eldercare? If so, how would you address the issue? CLIMATE: What do you think of the goals and progress made under the Howard County Climate Forward plan? What strategies would you support to make sure Howard County attains these goals? CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Please explain the role you believe the county government should play in protecting residents' Constitutional rights. PUBLIC SAFETY: How would you address concerns about crime while also building trust between public safety agencies and the residents of Howard County?

NOTE: *Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.*

VANESSA ATTERBEARY (D)

vanessaatterbeary.org

RESPONSES

REVENUE: Howard County must meet its legally mandated education obligations while maintaining fiscal stability and protecting core services. As County Executive, I would approach this challenge through disciplined budgeting, long-term revenue planning, and strategic economic growth. For our county to truly thrive, we must take a thoughtful and strategic approach to increasing revenue—one that is creative, responsible, and rooted in equitable economic growth that works for every Howard County Community.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes affordable housing is one of the most pressing challenges facing Howard County. Rising housing costs affect teachers, public safety officers, young professionals, seniors on fixed incomes, and families who want to

remain in the community they call home. Addressing this requires a comprehensive strategy that balances stability, subsidy and supply while protecting existing residents through strong tenant protections and eviction prevention programs, expanding public and nonprofit partnerships

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Supporting care infrastructure across generations is fundamental to workforce participation, family stability, and long-term fiscal sustainability, and proactive planning today will ensure Howard County remains a community where residents can thrive at every stage of life. I will champion financial programs that help seniors age with dignity—whether that means staying safely in their homes or accessing affordable, high-quality senior living options that meet their changing needs.

CLIMATE: As County Executive, I would focus on accelerating implementation by electrifying county facilities and fleet vehicles, expanding energy efficiency retrofits across residential and commercial buildings, incentivizing distributed solar and battery storage, and aligning land use policy with transit-oriented development to reduce vehicle miles traveled. We must also integrate climate resilience into capital planning by investing in stormwater management, watershed protection, and flood mitigation.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: The county government has an affirmative duty to protect and defend the constitutional rights of every resident, and that responsibility is not optional or selective. It includes safeguarding due process, equal protection under the law, freedom of speech and religion, and protection from unlawful government action. The rule of law must guide every decision we make, and public trust depends on knowing that the local government will defend the rights of all residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I support data-driven policing combined with transparent reporting, independent oversight, and continuous bias training to ensure equitable treatment across race, ethnicity, and neighborhood. We must invest in prevention strategies that address root causes of crime, including economic instability, housing insecurity, mental health needs, and youth opportunity gaps. Expanding crisis response partnerships, strengthening community engagement, and ensuring meaningful civilian input.

BOB COCKEY (D)

no website provided

RESPONSES

REVENUE: Dive into the budget and put a stop on things that aren't as important to the school budget like bike Lanes a library on the lake etc etc.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I have blueprints ready to build 1200 square foot units that can be owned not rental that will create generational wealth for the residents of Howard county we need people to be able to work and live in Howard county keep the money in Howard county keep the money circulating. Pictures will be built instructors

that are already existing so we don't have to send money on purchasing expensive property it will be reuse of buildings already existing.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Child Care is definitely a number one issue I would have an ambassador to visit major businesses and corporations and Howard county to help sponsor just like people sponsor stadiums we need to have child care facility sponsored by major corporations. It's not a cure all but it's a step in the right direction without raising taxes. In return these companies May get a tax incentive.

CLIMATE: I would push toward biofuel use and geothermal.

I think the expansion and Howard county was just created in traffic jams has not really helped any climate change we need to slow down construction until the infrastructure can be met on a smart basis.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Were the greatest nation in the world ever known because we are a nation of laws we need to enforce our laws there is no variance the law is for everyone we need to respect your neighbors and respect the laws of our country and of our county and State.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I would like to have a police officer at every school every Day greeting the kids making them feel safe and that will also help recruit officers in the future. This helps create safety and a feeling of officer friendly.

I would also like to see the police officers how their cars more walking and parking lots at grocery stores becoming more of a approachable person as opposed to just a person in the uniform they need to come like the old days when we had foot patrolman when they know the citize

DEB JUNG (D)

debjung.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: I would build my budget around realistic revenue amounts so that previous years' surpluses are closer to historical averages of \$30 million. Amounts higher than this average means that revenue projections are being constrained to allow for more flexible, non-recurring spending instead of committing to recurring and necessary expenditures. I would also stabilize our annual debt load by focusing first on deferred school projects instead of non-essential Capital projects.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Affordable housing can be addressed by enhancing the County's existing moderate-in-income housing unit program, increasing the affordability exemption fee (fee-in-lieu), providing increased financial assistance to promote home ownership, subsidizing construction of affordable rentals that do not concentrate poverty in low-income areas, and initiating Comprehensive Rezoning so that missing middle homes can be built in Activity Centers and Gateway.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Both childcare and eldercare lack affordability and availability. I would investigate ways to expand the Department of Recreation and Parks'

HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEB JUNG (D), CON'T

before- and after-care program to meet the high demand for affordable, quality care. I would enhance programming at the County’s 50-plus centers to provide meaningful social interactions and support for elders and continue to provide community grants to non-profits, such as Winter Growth, that provide adult day, assisted living, and memory care.

CLIMATE: I have supported every legislative effort to meet our climate-forward goals and I will continue this progress as County Executive. I co-sponsored legislation to require electric- and solar-ready buildings. I voted for zoning changes to expand solar production and for tax breaks for solar facilities to make renewable energy production more affordable. I pushed for more electric vehicles in the County’s fleet. I support protection of mature tree canopies and managing stormwater at the source.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: The County government should protect the privacy of our residents regardless of national origin or other minority status from illegal surveillance or data collection, support free and fair elections, protect our First Amendment rights, and be prepared if Federal funds are withheld because of non-cooperation with unrelated and un-Constitutional conditions. I voted to approve sanctuary status, to end the detention center’s contract with ICE, and to prevent operation of private detention centers.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I will expand the Police department’s community liaison unit, which fosters neighborhood relationships. I will work with the Chief of Police to review current practices and policies to ensure that public safety efforts meet best practices, de-escalate crisis situations, and are carried out with fairness.

As a Councilmember, I responded to my constituents’ requests for police assistance to reduce dangerous driving, address property crime, and improve overall safety at the Mall.

LIZ WALSH (D)

votelizwalsh.com
RESPONSES

REVENUE: We have the revenues already to pay for what we should—schools especially—even as the State has pushed down to local government more and more unfunded mandates. As County Executive, I will ensure that my Office of Budget honestly projects our overall annual revenues and expenditures. For my last seven years on the Council, the outgoing Administration hasn’t—not before the pandemic shutdown, not during, not since. The funds our public schools needed to avoid devastating cuts were there all along.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes. As County Executive, I will reform County land-use practice and policy, from top to bottom. We will steadfastly serve the public good, not—always—bend to the will of the profiteers that we are supposed to be regulating.

My Department of Housing and Community Development will redefine affordable to more closely align with residents’ actual ability to pay; advance rent stabilization; enforce and expand inclusionary zoning to 20%, especially for 50+ housing; and end fee-in-lieu.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Yes. As County Executive, I will fund every HCPSS initiative to expand to its fullest potential universal pre-K—both in terms of (1) the annual, operational costs to fairly pay educators and staff; and (2) the one-time capital costs to build out new spaces as necessary without overcrowding existing schools.

My Office of Aging will proactively find and serve our most at-risk elders, where they are. We will expand access to transportation, memory care, and affordable and accessible housing.

CLIMATE: Abysmal. As County government, we should be modeling electrification. Every new roof of a certain size should have solar panels. Every ailing fossil fuel heating system replaced with geothermal or heat pump. Every gas appliance exchanged for electricity. Every spot of unnecessary mown grass swapped out for forest, or pasture, or food-producing or pollinator garden. And we should expand local incentives for immediate follow-on private sector adoption.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: In this second Trump regime—more vicious, aggressive and lawless even than the first—federal civil immigration enforcement routinely flouts constitutional mandates specific to search and seizure, due process, and cruel and unusual punishment. At some breaking point, our own local law enforcement apparatus will be responsible to protect us from those abuses, prosecute them, and hold the violators accountable.

PUBLIC SAFETY: As County Executive, I will fund in-house behavioral crisis response commensurate with need and separate from law enforcement. As is proposed at the new ElkrIDGE Community Center, I will co-locate HCPD patrol offices within community amenities.

We must do better to keep our Police Accountability Board advised of and involved throughout the complete arc of HCPD misconduct complaints and to remedy the disparate number of police stops and violence suffered by our Black and Brown neighbors.

MARYLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS PRESS RELEASE

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS ENCOURAGES MARYLANDERS TO EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF SERVING AS ELECTION JUDGES AND ELECTION PAGES

ANNAPOLIS (May 12, 2026) — The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) is calling on eligible Marylanders to take part in the 2026 Primary Election by serving as election judges and election pages.

There are several benefits to serving as an election judge. Eligible Marylanders aged 16 and older can earn money and help other residents cast their votes by serving as election judges. Those who have previously served as an Election Judge are eligible for a one-time \$100 bonus payment. Election judges check in voters, provide guidance and answer questions, and help oversee a smooth voting experience. To apply to be an election judge, use SBE’s online form or contact your local Board of Elections. It is vital to SBE operations to have an adequate number of Election Judges on call, in the event that there are last minute cancellations and to help begin recruitment for the 2026 General Election cycle.

Additionally, eligible 14-15-year-olds can serve as Election Day Pages. Pages are student volunteers who, under the direction of Chief Election Judges, assist Election Judges and voters on Election Day. To become an Election Day Page, apply using our online form or contact your local Board of Elections. Serving as an election page also provides students with an opportunity to earn service-learning credit hours for school.

“Election judges and pages are essential to the success of Maryland’s elections and the strength of our democratic process,” said State Administrator Jared DeMarinis. “Their service helps ensure every voter can cast a ballot confidently and that every vote is counted accurately, fairly, and securely. Election judges also play a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and security of elections across the state. For younger Marylanders, serving as an election page offers a unique and rewarding introduction to the election process and civic engagement. I encourage all eligible Marylanders to consider serving their communities as election judges or election pages and help protect the voting rights of their fellow citizens.”

State of Maryland employees and county government employees who are scheduled to be an election judge can earn administrative leave. Be sure to check with your employer for any added benefits of serving as an election judge.

Please remember to rely on your state and local government election officials as your trusted sources for election information. Additional information about Maryland’s Primary Election can be found at vote.md.gov/vote2026 or by downloading the free Go Vote Maryland! app from the Google Play store or the Apple store.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL		
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL		
DESCRIPTION		
DUTIES: As the legislative branch, the Council approves the laws for Howard County. Members also sit as the Zoning Board and the Liquor Board. TERM: 4 years, limit of 3 consecutive terms SALARY: \$80,058 (\$83,558 Chairperson) HOW ELECTED: Elected by district. The county is divided into five districts with one representative per district.		
QUESTIONS		
REVENUE: How would you reallocate funds or raise revenue to meet the new legally mandated educational spending along with other priorities important to county residents? AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Do you believe that affordable housing is an issue that needs to be addressed in Howard County, and if so, how would you address it? CHILD & ELDER CARE: Do you believe there is an issue with the availability and affordability of quality childcare and eldercare? If so, how would you address the issue? CLIMATE: What do you think of the goals and progress made under the Howard County Climate Forward plan? What strategies would you support to make sure Howard County attains these goals? CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Please explain the role you believe the county government should play in protecting residents' Constitutional rights. PUBLIC SAFETY: How would you address concerns about crime while also building trust between public safety agencies and the residents of Howard County?		
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1		
NOTE: <i>Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.</i>		
KEVIN CHIN (D), DIST. 1		
www.kevinchinforhowardcounty.com		
RESPONSES		
REVENUE: I will grow our tax base through smart development in Activity Centers per HoCoByDesign, expanding property and income tax revenue without raising rates. I will revisit the progressive recordation tax (CB-85-2020), which would generate \$30 million annually for schools. School funding dropped from 57% to 49% of county revenue since 2008, and I commit to restoring that proportion. I will also prioritize county dollars that unlock matching state and federal funds. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Absolutely, which is why I'm on the steering committee of the Housing Affordability Coalition. Maryland ranks 43rd nationally in housing affordability, and over half our teachers live outside the county. This is unsustainable. I will legalize missing middle housing in		
Activity Centers, support ADUs by right, and convert vacant commercial properties for mixed use. I will fund the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund and support good cause eviction protections. CHILD & ELDER CARE: Affordable childcare and eldercare are critical workforce and equity issues. High costs force parents, especially mothers, out of the workforce and strain fixed-income seniors. I support county subsidies and partnerships with providers. I support more flexible siting of childcare and eldercare facilities to expand access. I will work to fund wraparound services through the Department of Community Resources and Services. CLIMATE: I strongly support Howard County Climate Forward. I am a board member of Patapsco Heritage Greenway and active in Citizens' Climate Lobby. I will expand walkability and transit to reduce car dependence, support solar permitting on more zoned areas, and promote denser housing that reduces per-capita emissions. I will also support curbside composting expansion and push for green building standards in new development to meet our county's long-term climate commitments. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: County government must protect every resident's rights regardless of background. I will uphold the Liberty Act, keeping Howard County the strongest in the state for immigrant protections. Unfortunately, we have become a deeply unaffordable county forcing current residents out and keeping away new ones. We cannot protect people if those people do not live here, which is why I believe affordability is at the root of our ability to protect our community's Constitutional rights. PUBLIC SAFETY: I support community-oriented policing, including expanding the already successful Community Outreach and Pathways Section (COPS) programs into ElkrIDGE and Route 1 communities. Programs like these build relationships between residents and law enforcement, increasing collaboration and familiarity. I will also address root causes of crime by investing in housing stability, behavioral health, and economic opportunity.		
JAMES D. HANDLEY (D), DIST. 1		
www.handleyforhoward.com/		
RESPONSES		
REVENUE: On the Council I will fight to ensure public school funding is put back to pre-pandemic historical levels of funding, which will allow us to meet any newly mandated spending requirements. Especially in light of the Trump administration's chaos, we are going to need County specific solutions and should focus on expanding our County's economy by leveraging our highly educated population and proximity to two large metro areas. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes, this is an issue that must be addressed. To do this we must provide additional middle and low income housing. Simply installing more market-rate housing will not solve our affordability problems. I will ensure these types of housing are available going forward by making necessary changes during the next comprehensive re-zoning. I will also push for		
increased fees charged in lieu of providing this type middle and low income housing, to ensure the housing is actually built. CHILD & ELDER CARE: I know there is an issue with the availability and affordability of quality childcare and eldercare from personal experience, with three children 5 and under, and aging parents that cannot find an affordable home in the County. We must work with the state to find ways to provide tax relief, respite care, paid family leave, and direct financial assistance. We also must create and enforce standards of care to protect our loved ones. CLIMATE: I strongly support the County's plan. As District 1 has suffered from climate and developer driven floods in OEC, we must continue to respond by being a leader in this fight. I will work to make sure solar is on all government buildings in the Howard County. Moreover, the plan could be undone by huge spikes in energy demands caused by data centers. I will only support new data centers that are operating off of 100% green energy and are not increasing the cost of energy for ratepayers. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: The County must take an active role in protecting constitutional rights from this lawless administration. Every day I fight for Marylanders at the state Attorney General's office, and even personally filed the lawsuit against Trump's illegal firing of federal employees. I advocated for the recent measures to keep ICE out of the County, and when elected would look for all available means to protect our residents. As the only attorney running in D1, I am the best suited candidate to protected us. PUBLIC SAFETY: Given my nearly 2 years deployed overseas for the Army, I know what it is like to live in low trust environments lacking the rule of law. Thankfully Howard is a safe place to live and work. That does not mean we do not have work still to do to ensure public safety and trust. On the Council I will ensure our public safety agencies have the resources and personnel to keep us safe, but also make sure that the policies and procedures are in place to keep building trust with all our communities.		
JEAN XU (D), DIST. 1		
www.jeanxu4council.com/		
RESPONSES		
REVENUE: To meet mandated education funding, we need disciplined budgeting and long-term planning. I would review spending and revenue projections to ensure resources align with top priorities, including education. When revenues exceed projections, year-end surpluses should support school funding. We should also broaden the tax base by supporting local businesses, encouraging innovation, and promoting job growth so the burden does not fall disproportionately on homeowners. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes. Howard County needs a greater variety of housing options so seniors, young people, working families, and people with disabilities can afford to live here. I support expanding housing choices, including missing middle housing, especially in areas where infrastructure already exists. I also support		

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

JEAN XU (D), DIST. 1, CON'T

thoughtful redevelopment and mixed-income communities while ensuring development is aligned with school capacity, transportation, and other public infrastructure.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Yes. Many families struggle to find affordable, quality childcare and eldercare. I would support expanding childcare capacity by streamlining permitting for providers, encouraging childcare in community and workplace settings, and supporting partnerships with nonprofits and employers. For eldercare, we should strengthen home- and community-based services, support caregivers, and plan for more accessible housing and services so seniors can age safely and with dignity in our community.

CLIMATE: The Climate Forward plan sets important goals for reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, and protecting our natural environment. Continued progress will require practical, measurable steps. I support expanding energy efficiency programs, encouraging renewable energy, protecting open space and waterways, and integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning. We should also work with residents, businesses, and schools to ensure solutions are achievable and broadly supported.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: County government has a responsibility to uphold and protect residents' Constitutional rights through fair laws, transparent decision-making, and accountable public institutions. That includes ensuring equal protection, protecting civil liberties, and maintaining public safety while respecting individual rights. Local government should also provide clear policies, oversight, and training so that county agencies and employees consistently respect and safeguard these rights.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public safety and community trust must go hand in hand. I support investing in well-trained public safety agencies, community policing, and strong partnerships with neighborhoods, schools, and local organizations. Transparency, clear accountability, and regular communication with residents are essential. At the same time, we should address root causes of crime by supporting youth programs, mental health services, and community-based prevention efforts.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

NOTE: Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.

ARINZE MALCOLM IFEKAUCHE (D), DIST. 2

www.voteforarinze.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: We must attract and expand businesses in order to expand revenues. This is the only way we can meet our education spending targets. I am the only candidate in this race focused on growing our local economy and improving affordability. Visit voteforarinze.com/issues to read my plan to build 500K sqft of SCIF Space to attract Intelligence Agencies and Contractors to

Howard County. Regionally, we need to compete with similar SCIF concentrations in Anne Arundel, Northern VA, and Montgomery County.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Visit my website to read my First Time Downsizer Plan offering a \$20K property tax credit for seniors that downsize in Howard County and sell their old home to a first time homebuyer. My plan lowers prices by increasing single family and 55+ inventory — and does so without impacting school capacity.

I have 18 years of experience at the Federal, State, and Local levels of government. I am the only candidate offering written policy solutions to our greatest challenges.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: My Cure for Care Plan will cut childcare costs for working families by 65%. The plan is modeled after the Michigan Tri-Share initiative: a voluntary employer based benefit program. Employers that opt into the program pay 1/3rd of the daycare bill for eligible employees; Howard County pays 1/3rd of the bill; and the family pays the final 1/3rd. Employers use it as a recruitment and retention tool, the County keeps both parents in the workforce, and the family gets affordable childcare.

CLIMATE: The County is off pace of its 2030 goals, but it is difficult to invest in green infrastructure when prices are sent soaring by wars and rogue tariff policies. We've also been impacted by mass layoffs and slashed federal funding. Until economic conditions improve, local government must leverage its resources and public platform to bring greater awareness to existing efforts like the Green Bin, mass transit options, and expanded electrification.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Howard County has a legal and moral obligation to uphold the U.S. Constitution and Maryland law. All residents, regardless of status, religion, race, gender, or sexual orientation deserve to have their rights and freedoms protected. As the only candidate with 18 years of policy experience (7 in law enforcement), I know how to use both public policy and legal representation from the Attorney General's Office to protect our residents and their rights.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I spent 4 years in the Baltimore SAO & I currently work for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy where we coordinate investigations into criminal organizations; develop juvenile crime policy; and support survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. I also mentored at-risk boys at Elkridge Landing Middle. We must engage youth before they commit crimes and go after the adults that are recruiting young people into their criminal activities.

JESSICA I. NICHOLS (D), DIST. 2

www.teamjessicanichols.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: Blueprint obligations equal approx \$5M of a \$75M education funding deficit. The schools' percentage of the county general fund has declined over the last several years and it is imperative that reverse that trend by increasing revenue and strategically reallocating. Re-zoning will help grow our tax base without increasing the tax burden on individuals who already live here.

We must also make better use of investment income and PayGo money to chip away at deferred building maintenance.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes. Many of our teachers and first responders travel from out of the county, young professionals are priced of the market and working families continue to see their rent increase. I will champion a Housing for Heroes act, offering tax breaks and down payment assistance to our essential workers. We must also increase housing supply without continuing to concentrate poverty in the same areas. Public trusts and vouchers will also create opportunities.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Yes. Childcare is extremely expensive, and lower income families are disproportionately impacted — with parents often working nontraditional hours.

We must leverage mutual aid models among community groups, faith orgs, employers and daycares so all families have access to quality childcare.

Eldercare is costly and the quality varies. I will insist on frequent facility inspections and drop-in observations of home healthcare providers. There is an opportunity to explore mutual aid here too.

CLIMATE: The Howard County Climate Forward plan ensures that we do our part to mitigate the global climate crisis. Embracing electrification in new construction and creatively collecting solar energy are 2 goals with high return. We must also do more with stormwater collection and make EV charging more accessible.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Washington DC and the Trump presidency has shown a causal disregard for the constitution. I applaud the efforts of the current council and county executive to keep ICE out of our community. We have seen the playbook that this regime will use to spread fear and lawlessness. As County Council person I will work closely with governor and Attorney General to ensure we have a rapid cohesive response when our community is in danger. I will also ensure we invest and uplift the local mutual aid efforts.

PUBLIC SAFETY: We must begin by addressing the economic determinants of crime. Crime is a symptom of complex unmet needs. Increasing housing stability, access to food and essentials go a long way. So do harm reduction strategies and early intervention. We will never incarcerate our way to safety. Investment in youth mentorship, workforce training, restorative justice and treatment for substance abuse are all nonnegotiable elements of the solution. All must be done with cooperation from local law enforcement.

PROOF OF VOTING

Does your place of employment require proof of voting to excuse your absense?

Your local poll workers have you covered! Upon request, a pollworker will give you a form to prove that you voted, but the form will be different from the form you sign when you check in to vote. If you need proof that you voted, please ask a pollworker.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL		
COUNCIL DISTRICT 3	CHRISTIANA RIGBY (D), DIST. 3	COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
NOTE: <i>Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.</i> AMIR S. NAVIWALA (D), DIST. 3 amirnhoco.com <u>RESPONSES</u> REVENUE: I would definitely work with County Council support staff to figure out where we can realign the budgets to free up the monies we need for our school system. I think the money is there. It’s just a matter of ethics and prioritization. We need to make sure we’re not spending on politically motivated projects. I would avoid raising taxes because people are already paying enough in taxes and we are in the midst of an affordability crisis. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes. I would continue to make sure our ADU policies allow for increased quality affordable housing options while keeping investors out of our ADU’s. I would make sure we increase the percentage of inclusionary zoning on new developments while making it virtually impossible for developers to utilize easy outs via fee-in-lieu. I would increase funding to a housing trust fund to subsidize the inclusionary zoning units. We would find underutilized commercial areas to convert to residential. CHILD & ELDER CARE: Yes! We need to make an advisory panel for this and free up substantial funding for both of these initiatives. The advisory panel would help us understand how to best do this. I think using existing infrastructure/systems for this would probably be smartest so we’re not reinventing the wheel. For example, if we can expand school capacity we can build childcare into our public school system, etc.. CLIMATE: I know very little about this, but I highly doubt we’ll meet our goals by 2030. I do think they are very important though. I think we need to seriously evaluate our power generation sources and realign accordingly, and we have to amp up power generation. We can also improve our bus system and make it low cost or free. On a state and federal level we need to advocate for high speed rail for people and cargo. We need to make a public tracker so people can follow our progress with the Climate Plan. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: I definitely believe we should abolish ICE, so we need to whatever we can to make it as impossible as we can for ICE to operate in our county. I would also make a hard push to reform the Board of Appeals so residents can actually have a say over corporate interests in our county. If we had a strong BOA, WR Grace wouldn’t be able to burn plastics in our air. PUBLIC SAFETY: We need to increase training and programs for police to engage in a more holistic, human, and non-weaponized approach to policing. But the biggest thing we can do are economic changes and social welfare programs to reduce need and pressure on people. We need to strengthen our unions and increase living wage jobs, so people can easily find a path to a dignified existence, and don’t face the pressures that drive them into crime. We need to increase affordable healthcare/ counseling access.	www.christianarigby.com <u>RESPONSES</u> REVENUE: The current model is unsustainable: more than 60% of new county revenue growth is going to the school system and yet each year tradeoffs must be made to meet state demands. We must increase recurring revenue by expanding our tax base through thoughtful economic development while also urging the state to evaluate how Blueprint mandates are implemented. Pre-K, for example, was designed as a dual-delivery model; the state should test direct subsidies to families and other effective strategies. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Affordable housing is a critical issue in Howard County, with demand far outpacing supply. We must expand housing options across all ages and stages of life. County-backed construction loan financing can kickstart projects and give the county more control over development, allowing us to create needed housing where it’s most needed while addressing both affordability and fiscal challenges. CHILD & ELDER CARE: As a member of the sandwich generation, I live this crisis firsthand. Howard County lost 500 childcare spots during the pandemic while gaining 2,000 children under five. I worked with the County Executive to direct ARPA funds toward expanding capacity and county-run programs. Like housing, limited availability drives up costs and leaves families behind. Continued investment and creative partnerships are essential to meet demand for both childcare and eldercare. CLIMATE: Howard County has made meaningful progress on the Climate Forward plan, and aligning departments is key. As a councilmember, I prioritize oversight and accountability, regularly meeting with departments to track progress. I support strategies that reduce emissions, expand renewable energy, and strengthen resilience, ensuring the county stays on track to meet its climate goals. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Howard County plays a vital role in protecting residents’ Constitutional rights. We must safeguard life, health, safety, and welfare, set operational and location standards for local detention facilities, and ensure accountability. The county should also fund local nonprofits that provide direct legal assistance, helping residents defend their rights while respecting the limits of local authority under the Constitution. PUBLIC SAFETY: Howard County is one of the safest communities in the U.S., but juvenile violent crime has risen. We are investing in youth through the Youth Engagement Strategies Council, expanded teen programs at community centers and libraries, and mentoring and employment opportunities. By supporting young residents and fostering positive relationships with public safety agencies, we can reduce crime while building trust and connection in our community.	NOTE: <i>Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.</i> LINFENG CHEN (D), DIST. 4 www.chen4d4.org <u>RESPONSES</u> REVENUE: I will take a balanced approach. Education is our top priority—restore funding level for HCPSS to maintain excellence that attracts families and strengthens our tax base. At the same time, protect libraries, Howard Community College, parks, and public safety. Broaden revenue beyond property and income taxes—support smart economic development and diversified commercial growth to make the pie bigger. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes—affordable housing is a serious, complex challenge in Howard County. We must grow better-paying jobs while advancing targeted solutions for seniors, people with disabilities, and essential workers like teachers. I support direct investments and incentives, including the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund and strategic use of County-owned land, to create accessible homes with long-term affordability protections. CHILD & ELDER CARE: Yes. The availability and affordability of quality childcare and eldercare are major challenges for young families and seniors. COVID closures reduced childcare capacity. I support financial incentives, workforce training, and small-business support to rebuild supply. For seniors, expand age-friendly housing, aging in place, promote downsizing if seniors want, and responsibly integrate new technologies—including robotics and AI—to improve care and efficiency. CLIMATE: Howard County’s Climate Action Plan is a strong framework. I support clear benchmarks, transparent reporting, and regular progress reviews. We should adopt global best practices tailored locally. Strengthen environmental education and partnerships with the Howard County Conservancy, expand youth civic engagement, and ensure residents have clear channels to contribute ideas so the plan remains practical, inclusive, and results-driven. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: County government has a fundamental responsibility to protect residents’ Constitutional rights through fair laws, transparent policies, and accountable enforcement. That includes safeguarding free speech, due process, equal protection, and privacy, while ensuring public safety. The County must provide oversight, prevent discrimination, and build trust so every resident—regardless of background—feels protected, respected, and treated equally under the law. PUBLIC SAFETY: We must keep Howard County safe while strengthening trust between public safety agencies and residents. I support strong community partnerships and transparency in reporting and oversight. Investing in youth programs, mental health response, and prevention reduces crime long term.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

LINFENG CHEN (D), DIST. 4, CON'T

Public safety and community trust are not competing goals – they reinforce each other.

REGINA CLAY (D), DIST. 4

www.reginaclayforhoward.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: Howard County families deserve a government that can walk and chew gum at the same time: fully fund excellent schools, keep us safe, and make life affordable. I'll scrutinize tax breaks and subsidies that don't deliver clear public benefit and require development to pay its fair share for schools and infrastructure. Kids can't learn if they're hungry, unhoused, or unsafe.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Yes. In one of the wealthiest counties in the country, too many seniors, young families, and workers are being priced out. I'll push for missing middle housing—duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and ADUs—so we're not stuck choosing between luxury apartments and large single family homes. If we only build luxury, we're telling regular families there's no place for them here. I'll strengthen rental licensing, inspections, and enforcement, and pair new housing with transit, parks, and school capacity.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Families are being squeezed by housing costs, food prices, and the cost of caring for children and aging loved ones. When care is unaffordable, parents are forced out of the workforce, and seniors lose stability and dignity. I'll use land use and economic tools to attract childcare and eldercare providers in underserved areas. I'll leverage grants, state and federal dollars, and county owned space to stabilize high quality providers. Care work is real work—and it should come with real wages.

CLIMATE: Climate Forward moves in the right direction. Your ZIP code shouldn't decide your air, your water, or your life expectancy. I support stronger standards and incentives for efficient buildings, green infrastructure, and transit oriented development. I'll push to clean up and monitor industrial sites and prioritize climate investments in overburdened neighborhoods. Those dollars should also create local green jobs and apprenticeships so climate action cuts , improves health, and builds opportunity

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Rights don't stop at the county line. I'll ensure policies don't discriminate based on race, gender, disability, religion, immigration status, or who you love, and that residents have clear ways to seek help when their rights are violated. I support strong anti discrimination laws, transparent policing, protections for speech and religious freedom, and public data so we can spot disparities and fix them.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public safety must be effective and fair. I support data driven strategies focused on serious violence, paired with mental and behavioral health crisis response, youth programs, and violence interruption that prevent harm. We can't arrest our way out of problems we refused to prevent. I'll back transparency, real community engagement, and oversight,

plus reentry services—housing, jobs, and support—because reducing repeat offenses makes everyone safer.

JANSSEN EVELYN (D), DIST. 4

ijanssenevelyn.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: As an Apple Ballot endorsed candidate and HCPSS parent, fully funding our schools is my absolute top priority. To meet educational mandates and support our aging population through the 'silver tsunami,' we must strategically expand our commercial tax base. I propose treating smart redevelopment as a fiscal imperative. By prioritizing resilient equitable placemaking and fulfilling the promise of the Downtown Columbia Plan, we transform underutilized properties into vibrant economic engines.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Absolutely. Our median home price exceeds \$500,000, threatening our diverse community fabric. We cannot subsidize our way out; we must thoughtfully build our way out. Drawing on my executive success architecting landmark land use policy, I will champion zoning law modernization to legalize missing middle housing by right. We must require strong inclusionary zoning, fix fee-in-lieu, and align HoCo By Design with real infrastructure so educators & other essential workers can afford to live here.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: As someone who cared for a father with Lewy body dementia while raising my daughters, I understand this care crisis intimately. For eldercare, I strongly support legalizing detached accessory dwelling units to empower seniors to age in place or comfortably with house caregivers. For childcare, I will fight to fully implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and utilize capital budgets to expand early childhood facilities so high quality care is accessible to every single working family.

CLIMATE: I fully support Climate Forward. We must aggressively accelerate the solarization of public buildings and mandate green infrastructure. By advancing the Route 29 Bus Rapid Transit, we will drastically reduce emissions, connect our workforce, and forge a relentlessly sustainable future for our children. As Immediate Past President of the Howard County Conservancy, I view the climate crisis as an existential challenge demanding moral courage. We cannot afford to fall behind. We cannot delay.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Local government is the absolute frontline defense for our civil liberties. As an immigrant, attorney & Vice-Chair of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, I believe our county must actively protect marginalized groups and dismantle systemic inequities. We must ensure local ordinances fiercely defend our freedoms and voting access. Furthermore, our county agencies must never act as federal immigration proxies, ensuring Howard County remains a truly empowering sanctuary for all residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Howard County is fortunate to have a top tier police department, but public safety requires authentic community trust. I served as the inaugural Executive Director of the

Anne Arundel County Office of Police Accountability. As tragic incidents like Patuxent Commons show us, we must invest in continued Crisis Intervention Team training for community members and sworn officers. By funding behavioral health responders, police can focus on violent crime while we address systemic root causes.

SHAMIEKA PRESTON (D), DIST. 4

www.prestonforpeople.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: Howard County's tax base grows 4% annually. That natural growth is our foundation. I support dedicating at least 50% of annual PAYGO to HCPSS capital projects, with phased iterative repairs targeting the highest-priority systems first. I will also revisit Transfer Tax allocations periodically and ensure developer impact fees fund infrastructure growth demands. We can fund strong schools, affordable housing, and public safety without raising taxes on families already stretched thin.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I grew up in NYC public housing and have been a small landlord across three states. I understand this from both sides. Too many Howard County teachers, first responders, and seniors cannot afford to stay. I support proactive rental inspections, rent stabilization, Good Cause eviction protections, and a dedicated housing fund not subject to budget cycles. Developers must build required affordable units, not pay fees that go undeployed.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Yes, absolutely. Families cannot work without affordable childcare, and seniors cannot age with dignity without accessible eldercare. Federal cuts to Medicaid are already hitting our aging population hard. I want to build a county-funded health access program modeled on primary and preventive care, regardless of documentation status. With thousands of Howard Countians at risk of losing SNAP in a contracting job market, we must connect food access to health navigation as well.

CLIMATE: The Climate Forward plan sets the right goals, but we are not on track. I will push for enforceable compliance requirements for new developments, annual public emissions reporting, building electrification standards, expanded transit, and tree canopy protections. We will never meet our climate goals while permitting corporate neighbors to burn plastics in our communities. Data centers must disclose energy demands, use renewable energy, and pay for grid upgrades before receiving approvals.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: County government must protect residents' rights in practice, not just on paper. The federal SAVE Act would disenfranchise eligible voters, including married people, people of color, naturalized citizens and seniors. I will ensure the county informs residents of their rights, work with state officials, and promotes voter registration. I will establish a countywide firewall limiting ICE data sharing, require annual reporting on ICE requests, and create a permanent Immigrant Safety Commission.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

SHAMIEKA PRESTON (D), DIST. 4, CON'T

PUBLIC SAFETY: Community policing must be real: officers attending community events, coaching youth, building relationships before something goes wrong. I want young people to see police as trusted neighbors, not threats. I am concerned about use of force involving youth and will push for public data, transparent investigations, and genuine accountability. Co-responder models for mental health calls can reduce escalation. Trust is a daily practice, and I will use Council oversight to hold Howard County to it.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

CAT CARTER (D), DIST. 5

vote4catcarter.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: As a small cybersecurity business owner, former teacher, and PTA Council of Howard County President, I support strong schools while living within our revenue. Building on my work with the HCPSS Operating Budget Review Committee, I will advocate for reducing transportation costs and investing in in-county special education programs to lower long-term expenses. We must also prioritize reducing non-school spending so we can address the \$200 million in deferred school maintenance.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Housing affordability is a growing challenge in Howard County. We need thoughtful solutions that expand housing options while protecting quality of life. I support infill housing and mixed-use redevelopment that strengthens our community while protecting green spaces. Expanding affordable housing must be done sustainably, with attention to infrastructure and schools. We must streamline housing, licensing, and permitting processes and ensure homebuyers are not pushed out by large corporations.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Childcare and eldercare are increasingly expensive and hard to find in Howard County. I support investing in eldercare infrastructure, childcare incentives for working families, and partnering with schools to offer more programs. We must revisit regulations and funding structures that are unintentionally pushing small childcare providers out of business. Caregivers need living wages and families want reliable support. We must advocate for programs that offer opportunities to help families.

CLIMATE: I support Howard County’s Climate Forward Plan to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience. We should continue advancing responsible investments in renewable energy production close to usage with battery storage capabilities, environmental infrastructure, and resilience initiatives. I support solar on rooftops and parking lots, energy efficiency programs, protecting forests and farmland, improving stormwater systems, and ensuring large energy users meet more of their own energy demand.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: The Howard County government has a responsibility to protect residents’ Constitutional rights. I support strong coordination between human rights offices, law enforcement, and

legal professionals to track and respond to civil rights violations. We must protect our neighbors from hate and unlawful acts and ensure every resident feels safe, respected, and protected under the law. I will stand with communities under attack and support policies that uphold fairness, accountability, and transparency.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public safety means supporting our police while building trust with community outreach. Howard County officers are highly trained professionals with four-year degrees who deserve continued investment in training, staffing, and technology. Through my work on the HCPSS Safety & Security Taskforce, I helped improve communication on reportable offenses and strengthened school safety. We should also ensure officers can afford to live here in the communities they serve.

FELITA PHILLIPS (D), DIST. 5

phillipsfordistrict5.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: Financial analysis can reveal suspicious or redundant spending patterns.

Key checks include: Duplicate vendor payments, Multiple contracts for the same deliverable, Repeated grants to the same entity for similar work, Rapid budget increases without measurable outcomes

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Affordable housing is a serious issue but Affordable living is where the real problem is. Financing can dramatically expand affordability even if home prices stay high. When buyers get very low-interest loans, their monthly payment drops, which effectively increases their purchasing power. Policy solutions that target this include: Subsidized mortgage rates, Shared-equity financing, Longer-term mortgages (40–50 years), Tax credits or payment assistance for teachers and first responders.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Eldercare is an issue. It is difficult for elderly residents to age in place. To help seniors age in place they need: Home modifications ,Grab bars, Walk-in showers, Stair lifts, Wider doorways.

Community-based services are needed such as: Meals on Wheels, Senior transportation, In-home health aides, Housing policy changes such as Accessory dwelling units (ADUs), Multigenerational housing, Property tax relief for seniors. Is a start to helping the elderly

CLIMATE: Green house gases are a serious problem. Protecting and expanding forests is one of the most practical and scalable tools we have for addressing greenhouse gases, especially when combined with emission reductions.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: I want all people treated humanely; people’s rights respected; and racial, ethnic, and religious profiling not to occur. We want our county to persistently and proactively act on behalf of all people.

PUBLIC SAFETY: In communities like Howard County, Maryland, studies often show that juvenile offenses peak during after-school hours, when: Parents may still be working, Schools are closed, Youth lack structured supervision, Without positive outlets, some teens drift toward risky behavior or peer pressure.

When communities provide low-cost or free programs, several protective factors improve.

RYAN P. O’CONNOR (R), DIST. 5

www.ryanforhoco.com

RESPONSES

REVENUE: I will not raise revenue. The county is maturing and school enrollment is declining. Some spending is redundant, unnecessary, or politically motivated.

There exist opportunities to consolidate core programming, expand use of virtual learning, and save on personnel. The savings can backfill funding shortfall in core areas like fine arts and athletics.

I will immediately call for an efficiency review of all county departments to identify ways to reduce costs and improve customer service.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: We need to make the county more accessible to people who want to put down roots and contribute to our county. Government has made it difficult to build homes and expensive to sell them. In the past several years, the school surcharge has increased over 500%, transfer taxes have been increased, excessive forest conservation and other land development requirements have reduced density and increased costs, and APFO has virtually halted development.

CHILD & ELDER CARE: Demand exceeds the availability of these services leading to higher costs, but government alone should not be looking to solve this problem. I would support the county funding a job training program for caregivers at Howard Community College. We can also make it easier and less expensive to open these businesses by reducing regulations.

CLIMATE: Although I am a staunch advocate of sustainability for our future generations, it should not come be cost prohibitive to our tax payers and economic development. There needs to be a balance of varying perspectives to ensure our economy is on solid footing.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Neither the Executive or Legislative branches should pass a law or create a policy that is unconstitutional. If someone believes their constitutional rights have been violated, I expect the Judicial branch to be a reliable venue for such a complaint and potential relief.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Increased crime, including District 5, is a significant concern. Everything Howard Co has to offer for residents, businesses and visitors is of little value if people do not feel safe enough to live here, visit, or maintain their business. HCPS does an incredible job solving crimes, which I would hope serves as a deterrent against future crime. We need more patrols in the rural west where out of town gangs have routinely hit neighborhoods for both auto theft and home invasions.

HOWARD COUNTY JUDICIAL OFFICES

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, CIRCUIT 5
DESCRIPTION
DUTIES: Judges preside over trials in the Circuit Court, which is a court that hears major civil cases and serious criminal cases, such as those requiring a jury trial. Circuit Courts may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies. HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide. The state is divided into eight Judicial Circuits. When there is a vacancy, a nominating commission reviews the qualifications of applicants for the judgeship and recommends several names to the Governor, who appoints a person from that list to fill the office. Each newly appointed judge must run for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy occurred. Sitting judges must also run for re-election after serving for 15 years. Attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar may also run to challenge a newly appointed or sitting judge. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots. The 5th Circuit Court serves Anne Arundle, Carroll and Howard County TERM: Fifteen years. No term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years. SALARY: \$204,433 annual base WEBSITE: https://www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/howard

NOTE: *There is only ONE candidate running for this office.*

MAURICE C. FRAZIER

Response was not received by print deadline.

HOWARD COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY
DESCRIPTION
DUTIES: The Howard County State’s Attorney prosecutes criminals and juvenile cases and determines whether to extradite persons in other areas who have been charged with crimes in Howard County. TERM: Four years, no term limit SALARY: \$201,333 HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide
QUESTIONS
CRIME RATES: What measures would you implement to reverse the trend of rising crime rates in Howard County? YOUTH CRIME: What do you perceive as the root causes of crime committed by youth? What do you consider to be best practices to reduce this trend? ICE: What advice would you give Howard County Law Enforcement officials regarding working with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

VOTING RIGHTS: How do you see the role of the State’s Attorney in protecting residents’ voting rights and securing our elections? PLANS: What do you hope to achieve in the upcoming term?
--

NOTE: *There is only ONE candidate running for this office. Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.*

RICH GIBSON (D)
www.richgibson.net <u>RESPONSES</u>

CRIME RATES: The question is based upon an erroneous premise. The data does not reflect rising crime rates. However, public safety is a priority that deserves our fullest attention. Some strategies that I believe will reduce crime are: prioritizing vigorous prosecution of repeat offenders, enhancing diversionary programs for low risk cases, enhancing wrap around services targeting root causes of crime, and robust mentoring programs for our youth.

YOUTH CRIME: Youth have always been drawn to “risky choices”, that phenomenon is not new. However, technological advances have made the crime committed by youth today more egregious in nature i.e.: inexpensive 3D printers which allow users to make ghost guns didn’t exist 10 years ago. We can reduce the trend by increasing high quality mentorship programs, holding youth accountable in meaningful ways when they commit crime, and enhancing wrap around services for the families of youth engaged in crime.

ICE: We must uphold the rule of law and the will of the Howard County community. Through the 2020 Liberty Act, our decision not to participate in 287(g) agreements, and passage of CB16 prohibiting permits for private detention centers, residents have expressed clear policy priorities. At the same time, the Supremacy Clause limits local authority where federal officials act within their lawful powers. Sound policy requires respecting both principles.

VOTING RIGHTS: The State’s Attorney does not have primary authority over election administration or voting rights protections. However, we can act to ensure that polling places are safe and prosecute crimes arising from offensive actions occurring in those locations. Also, we can collaborate with the State Prosecutor’s Office and the Attorney General’s Office to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

PLANS: I remain committed to serving the people of Howard County by advancing thoughtful, effective public safety solutions. That means working collaboratively to address rising juvenile crime despite evolving legal constraints, while strengthening accountability and prevention. It also means expanding proven alternatives such as L.E.A.D., Veterans Treatment Court, and Drug Treatment Court to reduce recidivism and improve long-term outcomes for our community.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
DESCRIPTION
DUTIES: The Clerk of the Circuit Court oversees the daily functions of the office, such as filing, docketing, and maintaining various legal records, recoding real estate documents, and collecting of related fees, commissions and taxes. TERM: Four years, no term limit SALARY: \$146,500 HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide

NOTE: *There is only one candidate running for this office. Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.*

JEN TERRASA (D)
<i>No response received by print deadline.</i>

REGISTER OF WILLS
DESCRIPTION
DUTIES: The Register of Wills assists the general public with administrative processes concerning estates of deceased persons. The Register collects Maryland inheritance tax on estates and probate fees; maintains all records of wills and estates of deceased persons; acts as clerk to the Orphans’ Court; and safeguards wills of living persons. TERM: Four years, no term limit SALARY: \$146,500 HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide.
QUESTIONS
1. Why is the role of the Register of Wills important? 2. What have you achieved in this office during your tenure? 3. What do you hope to achieve in the upcoming term?

NOTE: *Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.*

AJILE F. BROWN (D)
afbrownlaw@gmail.com <u>RESPONSES</u>

Q1: By statute the Register of Wills serves as the Clerk of the Orphans’ Court. Howard County is unique as it no longer has an Orphans’ Court. As a result the Register’s office is the primary public face of the probate process.Supporting individuals and families during the difficult time is important.

Q2: I have not served in this office before. However I have practiced as a licensed probate attorney for more than 20 years.

Q3: 1.update the technology in the office
2.Streamline the probate process

HOWARD COUNTY JUDICIAL OFFICES

REGISTER OF WILLS, CON'T

BYRON E. MACFARLANE (D)

www.byronforhoco.com

RESPONSES

Q1: When you lose a loved one and need help from your government, you'll end up coming to us. It's important that we support you in a compassionate, reliable, and efficient way. Knowing this is an extremely challenging time, we make an overwhelming ordeal feel manageable and let you know you're not alone. This role is essential to guiding families through probate, leading on reforms to make probate faster, fairer, and less expensive, and engaging the community on the importance of estate planning.

Q2: As an effective manager, I've spent my tenure building an office that is a model for good government. My staff and I treat people like human beings, not case numbers. As a prolific reformer, I've streamlined procedures, cut millions in fees, created protections for domestic partners, modernized our probate court, and achieved perfect fiscal audits. As a proponent of outreach, I've worked with community groups to empower people with tools to plan ahead and protect themselves and their families.

Q3: In these uncertain times, people deserve leadership that makes government work for them when they need it most. In the term ahead, I'll use my 15 years of proven experience to continue and build on this office's reputation for outstanding service. I'll keep treating everyone with dignity and respect. I'll keep leading on progressive reforms, expediting procedures, lowering costs, and implementing a user-friendly e-filing system. And I'll keep empowering people through robust community outreach.

HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF

DESCRIPTION

DUTIES: The Sheriff carries out court orders, delivers summonses, and executes bench warrants. The Sheriff performs police or corrections functions in jurisdictions where there are no County police or correction departments. The Sheriff's office is divided into four areas: the Civil Section, the Criminal Section, the Court and Transportation Section, and the Special Operations Section.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

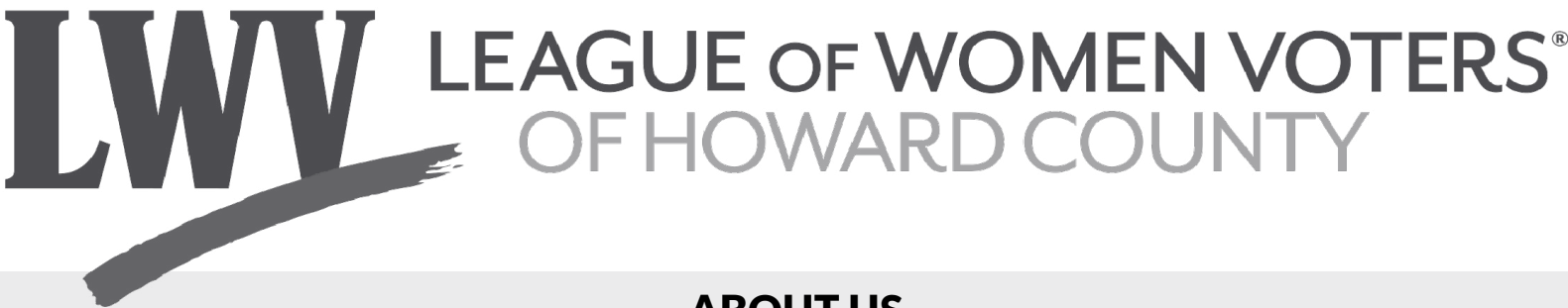
SALARY: \$191,942

HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide

NOTE: There is only one candidate running for this office. Because there are NO Republicans running for this office, this race will not appear on the Republican ballot.

MARCUS HARRIS (D)

No response received by print deadline.



ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

The League of Women Voters of Howard County is a nonpartisan organization committed to improving local government by increasing awareness of local policy issues, advocating for good governance and voter rights, educating and engaging citizens, and promoting transparency in the legislative process.

We believe that citizenship requires both knowledge and the ability to act, that the responsibility for good government rests on the shoulders of its citizens, and that the rights of citizens at home and abroad are interdependent.

Our advocacy covers a range of issues that impact our community, including land use and zoning, social issues, environmental protection, and government processes. We strive to preserve what makes Howard County special and move forward in a way that maintains our unique personality.

The League believes in the power of our members' voices, and our commitment to active participation is reflected in our decision-making structure. Our positions, priorities, and advocacy are guided by open discussion and member consensus.

From the national to local levels, the League of Women Voters adheres to the belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion are critical to our organization's success and to democracy itself. Our mission depends on the full participation of all citizens, without exception.

JOIN US!

We always welcome new members to the League! To join, scan the QR code below or visit hoco.lwvhowardmd.org

SUPPORT US

Our democracy is under attack, and it's up to organizations like ours to fight for the rights of voters. Across the nation, the LWV is advocating against gerrymandered districts, restrictions to voting rights, misinformation, and legislation that strips rights from women and minority groups.

By giving to the League, you're helping us educate and empower our citizens, ensuring that everyone in our community is aware of current legislation, important local issues, and the plans and platforms of individuals who wish to represent us.

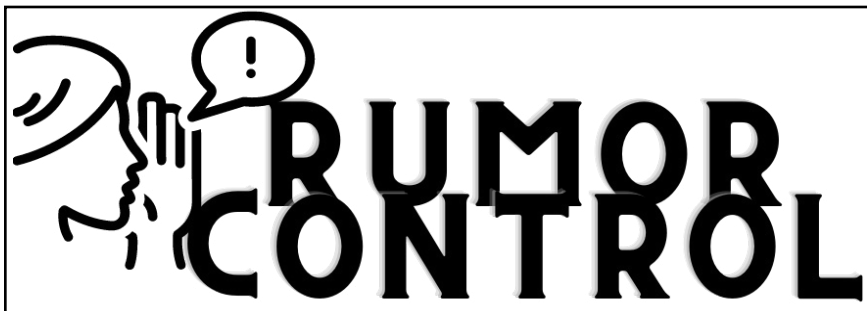
Any amount helps! Visit hoco.lwvmd.org to donate!

CONTACT US

Email: Office-HoCo@lwvmd.org
Phone: 410-730-0142
Website: <https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LWVHC
Instagram: www.instagram.com/lwvhc/



GOOD TO KNOW...



RUMOR: Unless Marylanders show photo identification at polling places, we cannot be confident that people aren’t impersonating voters to steal votes.

FACT: Maryland elections officials take multiple steps to confirm each in-person voter’s identity. Every voter has to provide their name and home address, date of birth, or other identifying personal information to an election judge, who confirms that the information matches records. Every voter also signs a card to affirm their identity and request for a ballot, under penalty of perjury. Instances in which fraud is suspected are referred to the Office of the State Prosecutor.

RUMOR: There is a tracking number on each ballot.

FACT: There is not a tracking number on each ballot. The only bar code on the ballot is one used to make sure the correct ballot is matched to the correct voter.

RUMOR: I can bring the ballot I received in the mail or email and cast it during early voting or on election day.

FACT: You can’t cast a ballot received by mail or email at a voting location. If you received a ballot in the mail or via email, you must either vote and return that ballot or vote a provisional ballot during early voting or on election day.

Election officials perform audits throughout the entire election process. One of the audits they perform compares the number of ballots issued against the number of ballots counted.

RUMOR: I received a ballot by mail or email and can “trade it” to vote in person.

FACT: You can’t “trade-in” the ballot you received by mail or email and cast the ballot during early voting or on election day. If you requested a ballot and want to vote in person, you will have to vote a provisional ballot. An election judge will give you a provisional ballot application and a ballot to vote. Your voted ballot will be placed and sealed inside the application envelope and will be counted as long as you don’t return the ballot you received by mail or email.

RUMOR: If I drop my mail-in ballot in the mail on election day, my ballot is guaranteed to be postmarked on time.

FACT: The United States Post Office (USPS) does not always date a postmark on the same day you submit mail to them (there can be a 1 or 2 day difference). We urge every voter who wants to return their mail-in ballot with USPS to act early, or to go into a post office and ask for a hand stamp to ensure a timely postmark. Or voters can utilize an official Elections Drop Box up until 8pm on Election Day. Each ballot drop box is routinely emptied, well lit, and under surveillance to ensure safety and prevent any tampering.

RUMOR: Early votes and mail-in ballot votes are not counted unless there is a tie in an election.

FACT: All votes cast during early voting are counted. All mail-in ballots submitted on time with the required signature are counted even if they will not change the outcome of an election. Votes cast during early voting and by mail-in ballot count just like votes cast on election day.

RUMOR: If my mail-in ballot isn’t counted by election day, it won’t be counted.

FACT: Every mail-in ballot is counted in each election. It may take time for your ballot status to update since there are many ballots being received and processed. Election staff work quickly and accurately to sort, batch, scan, and count ballots while also serving the public. We ask for your patience when tracking your ballot as staff are working as quickly as possible.

RUMOR: The ballot marking device is flipping votes.

FACT: The ballot marking device is not intended to tabulate ballot results. It is simply a device that assists voters who choose not to mark their ballot by hand with a pencil, but instead choose to mark their ballot electronically.

The ballot marking device offers voters 3 opportunities to review their selections before casting their votes in the scanning unit to be tabulated. They should review their selections before moving to the next contest, again at the summary screen after making selections for each contest and a third time after it is printed. If there are any errors that occur before it is printed, the voter can be provided with instructions on how to change their selection. If there are any errors that occur after it is printed, the voter can alert an election judge. The election judge can give them a new ballot and the old one will be spoiled.

Once the ballot is cast in the scanning unit, where it is tabulated, there is no way to redo a ballot.

HOWARD COUNTY BALLOT BOX LOCATIONS



- Howard Bain 50+ Center 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD 21044
- Howard Elkridge 50+ Center 6540 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge, MD 21075
- Howard Gary J Arthur Community Center 2400 Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723
- Howard George Howard Building 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
- Howard Howard County Board of Elections 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21046
- Howard Howard County Scaggsville Police Department 11226 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723
- Howard Meadowbrook Athletic Complex 5001 Meadowbrook Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043
- Howard North Laurel Community Center 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel, MD 20723
- Howard St. John Baptist Church 9055 Tamar Drive, Columbia, MD 21045
- Howard West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department 12535 Old Frederick Road, Sykesville, MD 21784

VOTING UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

COLLEGE STUDENTS

The residential address used to register is the one you consider home, usually the one used for tax returns, government documents, bank and credit accounts, etc. It can be a home address or a campus address.

Voters using a campus address must list dormitory and room number. A PO Box is not a residential address.

Your residential address is important since that address determines which candidates and ballot questions will be on your ballot.

VOTERS WITH A DISABILITY

If you have a disability and cannot mark your ballot independently, the State Board of Elections offers an online tool to help you mark your ballot. With this tool, most voters with disabilities can make selections without help. If you would like to use this online tool, request a mail-in ballot and check the box saying that you want to print your ballot from SBE’s website.

If voting in person, voters may bring someone to assist, as long as they: are not their employer, their union officer, a challenger/ watcher. The person assisting must sign the Voter Assistance Form and cannot influence the vote. Accessible voting devices are available on request at polling locations. Ask an election judge for assistance.

IN/RELEASED FROM PRISON

As of March 2016, voters convicted of a felony who have completed their court-ordered sentence are eligible to vote. Persons in jail or prison for a misdemeanor or who are waiting for their trial can still register and vote.

We recommend that the voter use their permanent address as their voting address, and then request a mail-in ballot to be sent to the correctional facility.

OVERSEAS VOTERS

Maryland residents serving in the Uniformed Services or residing outside of the United States may register to vote and vote in Maryland. A Uniformed Services voter is a U.S. citizen who is a member of (or the spouse or dependent of a member of) the: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard; Merchant marines, Commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, & National Guard/Reserve members who are mobilized and will be away from residence on long-term basis.

An overseas voter is a citizen who resides outside of the United States and its territories and but for residence, would be otherwise qualified to vote in Maryland

HOWARD COUNTY EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Early voting for the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election will be from Thursday, June 11, 2026 through Thursday, June 18, 2026, inclusive. Early Voting Centers will be open each day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Howard County voters can vote early at any of the Early Voting Centers listed below.

- Gary J Arthur Community Center 2400 MD-97, Cooksville, MD 21723
- Meadowbrook Athletic Complex 5001 Meadowbrook Ln, Ellicott City, MD 21043
- Bain 50+ Center 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD 21044
- St John Baptist Church 9055 Tamar Dr, Columbia, MD 21045
- North Laurel Community Center 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel, MD 20723



MORE ABOUT VOTE 411

Enter your address and VOTE411 displays only the offices and candidates that will be on your ballot.

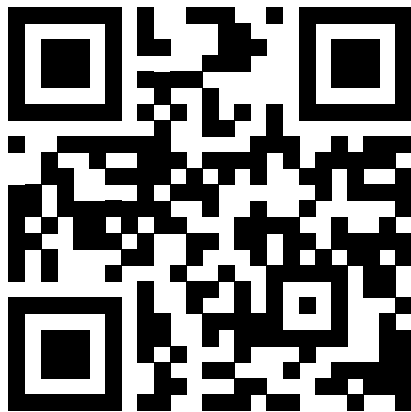
You can learn about the candidates on your ballot and what they have to say on the issues in response to League questions. Answers are in English and Spanish (where provided), and appear exactly as candidates submit them.

VOTE411 also includes information about the dates of the early voting period and where to vote, based on your address.

For the General Election, VOTE411 includes explanations and the pros and cons of state and county ballot questions.

You can also register to vote via VOTE411 and find other useful election information.

VOTE411 will have candidate and ballot question information available approximately six weeks before the election.



THANK YOU, LWVHC PARTNERS!

