



2022 Gubernatorial General Election Voters' Guide for Kent County

November 8, 2022

[last updated October 15, 2022]

About This *Voters' Guide*

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of Kent County and covers all races for which voters in Kent County may vote. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. All candidates for state or local office, who filed with the State Board of Elections, were invited to submit information about their candidacy to our web-based VOTE411 system. All invited candidates were asked to provide their campaign contact information and their responses to a series of questions posed for each office. All candidates were limited to 400 characters for each response; responses shown are what candidates entered up to the stated limit. All candidate responses appear as written in their own words and are included in VOTE411 in their entirety. Due to printing constraints, not all information provided is included in this *Guide*; only candidate website, if available, is included here for contact information. Go to VOTE411.org to see all candidate-submitted information. The League offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare for participation in the 2022 gubernatorial general election.

The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. This *Guide* is for the benefit of individual voters and should not be marked by others for organizations or

individual voters. Material from the *Guide* may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission of the League of Women Voters.

The League assumes no liability for errors or omissions. The candidates' answers in the *Guide* appear as submitted. Only candidates whose names are on the 2022 primary election ballot are included in this *Guide*.

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

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

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



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**Election Day is
Tuesday, Nov 8, 2022
7 am – 8 pm**

**Early Voting is
Thursday, Oct 27 – Nov 3, 2022
7 am – 8 pm**

**Voter Registration Deadline is
Oct 18, 2022**

Register in person at your county State Board of Elections office by 5 pm; return your registration by mail (postmarked no later than Oct 18); or register online or by fax/email by 11:59 pm

You may register to vote during early voting and on Election Day; contact your local State Board of Elections office for details.

Three Ways to Vote

- 1. VOTE BY MAIL-IN BALLOT –**
now through Nov 8
- 2. VOTE EARLY** Thursday, Oct 27 –
Thursday Nov 3, 7 am - 8 pm
- 3. VOTE AT YOUR ASSIGNED
POLLING PLACE**, Tuesday, Nov
8, from 7 am to 8 pm

Vote by Mail-In Ballot

To vote by mail you must first request an application for a mail-in ballot and then return your voted ballot.

Request an application for a mail-in Ballot

Call or visit your local Board of Elections to request an application for a mail-in ballot (contact information is below). Or, if you have a Maryland driver's license or an MVA-issued ID card, you can request your application online at <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>

Return your application to your local Board of Elections

You can return your application for a mail-in ballot by mail, fax, email (as a scanned document) or in person to your County Board of Elections:

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

135 Dixon Drive
Chestertown, MD 21620-1141
410-778-0038, Fax: 410-778-0265
www.kentcountyelections.org
Email Address: elections@kentgov.org

The deadline to return your application varies

The deadline to return your application depends on how you want to receive your ballot: To receive your ballot:

- ➔ **by mail or fax**, deliver by **TUESDAY, NOV 1.**
- ➔ **via the internet**, deliver by **FRIDAY, NOV 4.**
- ➔ **pick up in person**, deliver by **TUESDAY, NOV 8.**

All ballots must be mailed or hand delivered on or before Election Day, Nov 8. Return your ballot to:

- ➔ your County Board of Elections office,

- ➔ your Early Voting location or your polling place.
- ➔ deposit it in a County ballot drop-box

KENT COUNTY BALLOT DROP-BOXES 3 Locations:

GALENA VOL FIRE CO, 90 E. Cross St,
Galena MD

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 408 High St,
Chestertown MD (at rear entrance on Calvert St)

ROCK HALL VOL FIRE CO, 21500 Rock Hall Ave,
Rock Hall MD

BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN 8 PM NOV 8

Ballot drop-boxes are available now at the locations above.

Vote in Person during Early Voting

**Thursday, Oct 27 – Thursday Nov 3
7am - 8 pm**

EARLY VOTING LOCATION

Kent County Public Library, 408 High St,
Chestertown MD

Vote in Person on Election Day

Tuesday, Nov 8, 7 am to 8 pm

Vote at your assigned polling place. Check your sample ballot for your polling place or visit <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch>

For More Information

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

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read this *Guide* with your mail-in or sample ballot in hand, and mark your ballot accordingly. Take your sample ballot with you when you vote as *you are not permitted to use electronic devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and computers, inside polling places.*

Pay attention to the number of votes you can cast for each race; *checking more than the maximum allowed will invalidate your vote for that race.*

Check both sides of your ballot for additional races.

While we have included write-in candidates known at the time of our publication deadline, **write-in candidates can file until Oct 20 to be included in the official vote count.** We recommend you check the lists of certified write-in candidates listed in your sample ballot, at your local election board office, and posted at all voter centers to verify certified candidates.

Don't have a sample ballot? Go to Vote411.org and print your selections from there.

Only candidate information available at the time of our publication deadline is included here; for more up-to-date information on candidate responses, check VOTE411.org.



VOTE411.org includes all responses from all candidates on your ballot, as well as photos and contact information. You can even compare candidate responses and print your selections.

Need to register or check your registration? Vote411 provides links to help you with the voting process.

Plus, it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Try it!

Maryland Statewide Offices

Maryland Governor / Lieutenant Governor

DUTIES: The Governor is the head of the executive branch and appoints the heads of statewide departments and judges in the state courts. The Governor proposes the annual operating and capital budgets to the legislature and may veto legislation passed by the legislature. The Lieutenant Governor assists the Governor and carries out specific duties assigned by the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor fills the office of Governor in case of death, resignation, or disability.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two consecutive terms.

SALARIES: Governor \$184,000, Lieutenant Governor \$165,000 as of January 23, 2023.

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide as a team.

WEBSITE:

msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/08con off/html/01govf.html

QUESTIONS

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

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: What role should the state play in addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged people in Maryland?

PUBLIC SAFETY: What policies do you favor to reduce crime in Maryland while

improving police accountability in communities?

EDUCATION: What actions will you take to improve education in Maryland, especially given the impact of the COVID pandemic?

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

NATURAL RESOURCES: What is your greatest concern regarding Maryland's natural resources/environment and how will you address it?

INFRASTRUCTURE: How will you balance infrastructure needs with their environmental impact?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Dan Cox / Gordana Schifanelli
Republican
Campaign Website:
www.coxforfreedom.com

QUALIFICATIONS: State Delegate Dan Cox is a husband, father, Republican conservative candidate for Governor of Maryland and believer in the goodness of God for the people of our great State. He has been a leading force fighting for the lives and livelihoods of all Marylanders. A lifelong Marylander, Dan has served the People of Maryland as a small businessman, 15+ year Constitutional attorney, and Delegate.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: Boost the BOOST education programs for all and allow the money to follow the child under parental direction. Increase opportunity zone loans

and grants, with follow-up grants and loans to small business start-ups to ensure stability and strength. Ensure equality for all and access to the market with lower taxes.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Ensure immediate ending of the catch and release of illegal foreign nationals into our streets, and double the pay of police officers while providing state of the art world-class training with protection from frivolous lawsuits and public information act requests of private and family information.

EDUCATION: Provide tax credits for those forced out of the public classrooms, while providing school choice and additional charter schools. Ensure audits of the spending and reduce administrative waste while increasing pay and training of teachers. End the ghost students and ensure every student has access to tutors as needed to ensure they understand and pass the material in each class.

HEALTH CARE: Ensuring our seniors have access to care without discrimination and restoring our health privacy freedoms. Additionally, expanding affordable health care coverage by opening up competition across state lines is necessary to lower premiums.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Ensuring the effluent into the Bay and estuaries from the various city and town sewers, including Baltimore City, are discovered and stopped. Additionally, preserving our farmland and right to farm, while also ensuring our timber forests are healthy, harvesting with conservation, and protecting our state forests and old standing timber.

INFRASTRUCTURE: By preserving farmland and state forests, we can ensure land and growth areas are open for building to attract business and residents. Maryland has a net-loss of over 250,000 people since 2011. By granting access to our natural resources responsibly, and expanding energy production, we increase opportunity for all

while ensuring the conservation and protection of our state lands and waterways.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I will Restore Freedom to the Free State by ending all mandates on Day One of my administration. Furthermore, ensuring our Seniors have property tax assessment relief and retirement income relief will ensure we keep them here in Maryland.

Wes Moore / Aruna Miller
Democratic

Campaign Website: www.WesMoore.com

QUALIFICATIONS: State organizations and leaders—including Maryland’s teachers, Speaker of the House Adriene Jones, and Senate President Bill Furguson—not only see us best positioned to win but also see my experience leading in every sector of American society as what is needed to build a stronger, more equitable future for our state. It’s what I’ve dedicated my career to and it’s what I’ll do as governor.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: I will leverage this once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a stronger, more inclusive economy through work, wages, and wealth for every Maryland family. That means creating new pathways to the workforce, accelerating our path to a \$15/hour minimum wage, and breaking down barriers to homeownership. It’s what I’ve done my entire career, and it’s exactly what I’ll do as Maryland’s next governor.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I believe in policing with maximum accountability and appropriate intensity, bringing together federal, state, and local resources to prevent crime while building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. As governor, I will invest in proven community-based violence intervention programs, fix the Department of Parole and Probation, and invest in local re-entry programs.

EDUCATION: From cradle to career, education is one of the key pillars for Marylanders to access jobs, higher wages, and the opportunity to build wealth to pass on to their children. As governor, I will fix our broken childcare system and make pre-K free for every three and four-year-old in need, support our educators working their hearts out, fully fund the Blueprint, and build strong workforce pipelines.

HEALTH CARE: There are still over 257,000 Marylanders who lack health coverage and as governor, I will work to ensure universal access to affordable health coverage. Specifically, we will work to make enrollment and renewal in the Medicaid program easier, provide extra subsidies to make private health care more affordable, and provide affordable coverage options for people not eligible for the exchange.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Climate change is devastating our communities and inaction has cost us \$10 billion in the past decade and put our communities at risk. As governor, I will set aggressive targets to generate 100% clean energy by 2035, achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and implement solutions to address sea-level rise and extreme heat, prioritizing environmental justice throughout the process.

INFRASTRUCTURE: As governor, I will ensure that we are building 21st-century transportation infrastructure that provides equity both in terms of access and its construction, environmental protections, and strong input from the communities. A Moore-Miller administration will ensure every step is taken to fully understand and mitigate the environmental impacts while meeting the transportation needs of Marylanders.

OTHER PRIORITIES: No matter your start in life, you deserve an equal opportunity to succeed – a job you can raise a family on, a future you can look forward to. My top priority

is to create opportunities for people to step into better jobs, earn higher wages, and build wealth they can pass down to their children. In the military we learned a mantra, “leave nobody behind” and that’s exactly what I’ll do as governor.

David Lashar / Christiana Logansmith
Libertarian

Campaign Website: davidlashar.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I am an award-winning IT executive who brings success as 1) a policy analyst in Congress, 2) the CIO, COO, & Chief of Staff of Maryland’s \$14B Dept. of Health. Out-going Gov. Hogan (R) has said I am the most qualified candidate to succeed him. Jerome Segal (D), a socialist, has said I possess the character we need in our next Governor. So, my competence & character are vouched by MD leaders.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: Especially for disadvantaged communities, the state should expand opportunity for individuals and small businesses. School choice, affordable housing, and safe streets for individuals and their loved ones, along with transportation assistance. Relief from taxes and regulations for small businesses, including a “concierge” service to help Marylanders obtain the state and local permits they need.

PUBLIC SAFETY: To reduce crime, we must bring an end to the war on drugs. Just as the end of alcohol prohibition brought an end to the gangster violence of 100 years ago, so too the end of drug prohibition will bring an end to the gangster violence of today. And to be clear: Neither more jail time as per the Republicans nor more gun control as per the Democrats will make any difference.

EDUCATION: Education as delivered through public-monopoly schools in league with self-interested teacher unions has become a

failure, especially for youths in historically disadvantaged communities. We need to give all students, but especially poor students, the same privilege that rich kids enjoy: Choice as to where to go to school. The money must follow the child. As is already done for college education.

HEALTH CARE: Our most publicized and politicized health challenge has of course been COVID, to which elected Rs and Ds alike reacted with excessive contempt for clinical data, civic debate, and personal choice. Against which excesses, we need restraints on executive powers under future health emergencies. We also need action against the surge in opioid overdoses, offering services instead of indifference.

NATURAL RESOURCES: For the Bay, we must compel PA to meet its targets under the Blueprint for the Bay, so that MD and VA are no longer bearing the costs of fertilizer runoff from PA farms. For the climate, we must recognize per the UN panel's own science that we DO face a formidable challenge but we do not face an imminent catastrophe. So, we must avoid panic while moving to clean, reliable, affordable energy.

INFRASTRUCTURE: First, I must implore that we quit exaggerating our needs. The Rs and Ds in DC already have splurged on unnecessary and inflationary spending. Second, I commit to managing that which is coming from DC in a competent manner (unlike the Purple Line) while tending to environmental impact, for example avoiding miles of new concrete; for example promoting innovation for east-west Baltimore transit.

OTHER PRIORITIES: My priority is to restore civility and hope across Maryland. Which has almost nothing to do with policy positions... but has everything to do with possessing a character and advancing a philosophy devoted to respect for ALL people regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or

politics. Which is who I myself am and what libertarianism is, as you can confirm for yourself by following my campaign.

**Nancy Wallace / Patrick Elder
Green**

Campaign Website: wallaceforgovernor.us

QUALIFICATIONS: I created and led national environmental strategies at the Sierra Club during 14 years full time legislative campaigns on environment, building coalitions across the political spectrum; studied science, solutions for climate change for 30 years. I'm a certified organizational maturity CMMI appraiser for government and private sector; worked 28 years in executive branch on billion-dollar programs.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: The state government should take the lead in redistributing wealth from the top one percent to those who created it by practical programs increasing home ownership such as all public housing becomes rent to own; free college and forgiveness of all public college student debt; free universal health care including elderly care that Social Security doesn't cover; and green jobs with training for all.

PUBLIC SAFETY: See 11 point plan, website: Re screening all MD police for psychological tolerance. 50 percent of police live in their work jurisdiction. Mental health officers as priority. Elevate violent offenders to nonviolent paths with proven life mapping program. Raise standard for acceptable force above legal minimum. Full funding for social workers. Local citizen oversight boards with investigative power.

EDUCATION: Implement the Kirwan Commission on Education, and transition to Montessori proven technique for higher achievement and emotional healing in early

years. Free public college so all students know they have path to good paying jobs. High school academies with apprenticeships for locally needed skills for local community, partnering with unions and local businesses. Air conditioning, heat guaranteed!

HEALTH CARE: Our children's health epidemic of neurological disease of 1 in 8 children, vast racial discrepancies in health care, racialized rates of poverty that are stressors taking years off life expectancy, onslaught of toxic chemicals such as PFAS forever chemicals from firefighting and military facilities, glyphosate from food, mercury from coal plants each need a targeted program for a clean healthy MD.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Climate change needs emergency transformation on scale of WWII economic mobilization. We can reverse climate change with immediate free solar panels from \$2.3 billion Rainy Day fund; super insulation of housing starting with public housing; absorb CO2 with switch to organic farming with full state support, reforestation of all state lands, public education on minimum mowing, and restoring the Bay.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Our 2022 Infrastructure grade of C from American Society of Engineers clearly indicates that maintenance and renovation of our bridges, roads, dams, wastewater and other components will be our focus, not massive growth. Temporary environmental impacts will be offset by the improved engineering design such as fish ladders. Our large reforestation and Chesapeake restoration programs will also help.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Democracy reform with Ranked Choice Voting aka True Majority Voting, citizens right to state wide referendum, remove seniority dominance in state legislature to allow equal powers to all elected representatives, public investment of

tax revenues through a state Public Bank like ND, decentralization of power, local economic investment, small business priority. We never take corporate donations.

David Harding / Cathy White
Working Class

QUALIFICATIONS: I have worked all my adult life, in a variety of different jobs, in the shipyards, steel mills, doing home improvement and now in computer operations for the state of Maryland. I'm familiar with the problems working people face.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: Economically disadvantaged people are the poorer parts of the working class., people who have low-paying or part-time jobs. The bosses have created this situation in their drive for ever more profits. Until all working people organize, whether we are lower paid or higher paid, we will not be able to overcome this exploitation.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Crime is part and parcel of a society in decay. If workers organize and fight to improve our living and working conditions, crime will undoubtedly go down. Many so-called criminals would be glad to work at a decent-paying job.

EDUCATION: Maryland public schools need enough well-qualified teachers, resources and books for all children, air conditioning and heating, for a start, and real job training for students who want it. But our taxes are funneled to the wealthy. That won't change without an organized fight by the working class.

HEALTH CARE: Everyone needs decent health care, and that was true long before COVID. Not everyone has a health provider, and public health is starved of funds. In Maryland, one of the wealthiest states, our taxes could be used to provide health care,

instead of subsidizing developers and corporations.

NATURAL RESOURCES: If our natural resources were developed for the benefit of the entire population, rather than to boost the income of developers and agri-business, we would have more green spaces, a better quality of air, water and land and less global warming.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Some of the biggest infrastructure problems in Maryland are water and sewage. Working people would benefit from better roads, bridges, sewers, water and transportation systems, and so would the environment. But again, this requires a fight to redirect the wealth.

OTHER PRIORITIES: The working class has a potential that many workers don't realize. We do all the work of society, in offices, in manufacturing, in services. We have the potential to make huge changes because society could not run a single day without our work.

Kyle Sefcik / Katie Lee
Write In

Campaign Website: www.KyleSefcik.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I have experience in the streets, not the office, through my businesses and non profit. I bring people together to make all lives better. I am a true fighter. I work hard and stay focused on the fights at hand, and I never give up. I have no political ties to anyone in office. I am a small business owner. I am a father of children ages 5 and 7. I follow Jesus Christ above all.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: The state needs to support the non-profits, businesses, and churches, as they are the ones who need to aid and care for the economically disadvantaged people. We must serve those

in need and help these people find the means to a better life of family, work, and safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY: As an expert in safety and security, and someone who works with police everyday, I know many ways we can make sure our communities are safer, starting with giving the police more resources and respect. We need to have more training within the departments in deescalation situations so that wrongful deaths and arrests do not occur. Stricter laws for assaults, thefts, and violence.

EDUCATION: My best friend and brother are elementary school teachers here. I know the challenges in the classroom with admin, parents, and kids. I will work with teachers and parents to develop better atmospheres and curriculums for the public school system. I will also create a policy that allows parents to have School Choice. Public Schools are failing our children. We need to make big changes..

HEALTH CARE: We have a huge health problem in our state. Opioid addiction is one of the most significant healthcare threats in Maryland and across the country. This addiction is epidemic across the country and only gotten worse during the covid lockdowns. As a health expert, I can also say that we need to get back to basics. Healthy eating and drinking needs to be a focus.

NATURAL RESOURCES: DNR put watermen out of business by dumping stone on the bottom of our waterways which faults agriculture growth, our water treatments plants discharging human waste/unclean water into our waterways, pollution from PA ay the Conowingo Dam. I will end the dumping into the waterways and have waterman leading initiatives, not the government. Protecting our farming industry is the other priority.

INFRASTRUCTURE: I want to remind voters, that when it comes to this topic, it's your county, not the state, that has the final say on

this. We need to make sure that counties are making smart decisions, like building up where the infrastructure is supported and ready. I will work to improve Maryland's highways to reduce traffic. We can all agree on working together to make sure we have the cleanest environment.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Visit KyleSefcik.com for more priorities! @KyleSefcikForGovernor

Maryland Comptroller

DUTIES: The Comptroller is the financial officer of Maryland. He or she is responsible for collecting, managing and planning for revenue to support the state budget. The Comptroller collects and administers Maryland taxes on income (both personal and corporate), retail sales, motor vehicle fuel, tobacco, beer, and wine and liquor, as well as estate taxes. The Comptroller serves on the Board of Public Works along with the Governor and the state Treasurer, who is appointed by the General Assembly. The Board of Public Works must approve major contracts for the purchase of goods or service by any department of state government.

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$150,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

WEBSITE:

msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/08conoff/html/03compf.html

QUESTIONS

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

STATE CONTRACTS: What criteria would you use for evaluating contracts and capital projects that are subject to approval by the Board of Public Works?

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Barry Glassman
Republican

Campaign Website:
www.barryglassman.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I believe I am uniquely qualified to carry on the tradition of strong independent Maryland Comptrollers. As the leader of one of Maryland's largest counties, my Administration has earned praise for strong fiscal management and innovation with a fully funded pension obligation and 24 AAA bond ratings, a distinction earned by only 2% of counties nationwide. The next comptroller will need to be

STATE CONTRACTS: The Comptroller's role on the Board of Public Works is perhaps the most important responsibility of the office. As the taxpayer's representative, the Comptroller should strive to make sure As the only candidate for comptroller who has chaired a similar body, the Harford County Board of Estimates, I worked with my procurement office to save the taxpayers \$26.4 million over the past seven years

REVENUE SYSTEM: As Harford County Executive, I have launched over seven digital platforms to improve efficiency, save money

and improve customer service. One of my first steps as Comptroller would be a top down evaluation of the Office's digital infrastructure to make sure the State is collecting taxes properly but processing returns and assisting preparers quickly as well.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Currently, the most pressing issue facing Maryland's families is the spiking inflationary pressures of food, services and goods. Energy prices continue to strain the budgets of our working families and small businesses. The cost of housing along with this increased cost of living threatens the next generation of Marylanders to live and raise a family here in our State. I have managed a local

Brooke Elizabeth Lierman
Campaign Website:

www.brookelierman.com

QUALIFICATIONS: As a leader on the state's fiscal committees, including chair of the Pensions Committee, I have a track record of getting big things done. I'll be ready on day one to lead the office, advocate for families and small businesses, and modernize the agency to increase accountability and transparency.

STATE CONTRACTS: We must ensure the best value for all taxpayers. That means ensuring state spending grows our economy by keeping dollars local, tackling the wealth divide by investing in minority, women and veteran-owned businesses, and using sustainable practices to prepare for climate change. We must use purchasing power to build generational wealth and build for generations to come.

REVENUE SYSTEM: I will introduce new technology to modernize the process of paying taxes and make receiving refunds

more efficient. This will ensure that each taxpayer and corporation pays their fair share and also allow every family & small business to know which tax credits they qualify for, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit. I will also create a Taxpayer Advocate Office to assist taxpayers at every step.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Maryland faces many economic challenges but also big opportunities. We must tackle inflation, the racial wealth divide, climate change, and fully fund public education. As Comptroller, I will be a leader who brings people together to find solutions that unlock the potential of our communities and small businesses, increase economic opportunity for all, and build financially-resilient families.

Maryland Attorney General

DUTIES: The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of Maryland, providing legal advice to the Governor, the legislature, all state departments and boards, and most commissions. The Attorney General represents the state in all cases that relate to the Governor, the General Assembly and most state agencies. The office also has responsibilities for consumer protection, civil rights, medical and investment fraud, and the juvenile justice system.

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$150,000 .

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

WEBSITE: msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmnaual/08conoff/attorney/html/06agf.html

QUESTIONS

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

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

PUBLIC SAFETY: What policies do you favor to reduce crime in Maryland while improving police accountability in communities?

PUBLIC HEALTH: What actions will you take to address issues such as domestic violence, human trafficking or substance abuse?

JUVENILE JUSTICE: What is your philosophy on the issues involved in juvenile justice?

CONSUMER PROTECTION: Describe your approach to consumer protection.

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Michael Anthony Peroutka
Republican

Campaign Website: patriots4peroutka.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I am an attorney with more than 30 years of experience in private practice of law in Maryland. I have been a teacher of constitutional history and government for 25 years including the Constitution of Maryland.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:

As Attorney General I will conduct a review of all facets of administration of the AG office to ensure that constitutionally authorized activities are appropriately prioritized and funded. I will discontinue activities that are outside of the jurisdictional authority of the office pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of Maryland

PUBLIC SAFETY: Violent crimes must be brought under control. As AG this would be a priority. Criminal or otherwise inappropriate conduct by police will be investigated fairly and transparently. Police have a difficult and dangerous job and as AG I would have open and established lines of communication with both police and community groups.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: Efforts must continue to keep youths from entering the penal system. However, violent repeaters will be dealt with appropriately. I would also encourage the discontinuance of unrequested window cleaning of motor vehicles in Baltimore City and elsewhere.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: I believe that fraudulent activities should be investigated and prosecuted. However, I believe that it is the first priority of individuals to be careful and scrupulous in their business dealings

OTHER PRIORITIES: No governor or any bureaucrat has authority to make law, or declare that any order or edict has the "force of law" Any attempt to enact/enforce anything that violates the divinely given, constitutionally protected rights of people is worse than a nullity. No one, under any circumstance, has the authority to violate the constitution. There is no exception to this. It's a crime & must be prosecuted

Anthony G. Brown
Democratic

Campaign Website: anthonybrown.com

QUALIFICATIONS: With three decades as a lawyer, in federal and state courts, Army JAG officer, and regulatory attorney, representing clients against big tobacco and pro bono clients, and with twenty-two years leading in the legislative and executive branches of government, I bring the breadth of experience needed to lead and manage the Attorney General's Office, the largest public interest law firm in Maryland.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: As Attorney General, while I represent state government, I work for the people. They deserve efficiency and fairness of legal processes—criminal, civil and administrative. That begins with employing dedicated professionals who reflect Maryland's diversity and who are committed to equity and justice for all. I'll fight for needed reforms before the General Assembly and not accept the status quo.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I am an original cosponsor of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act which seeks to improve police accountability, I supported the First Step Act to reduce recidivism, and I advocated in Annapolis for a ban on "ghost guns." I will seek pattern or practice investigation authority over police misconduct, and I will continue to advocate for stricter gun laws such as universal background checks.

PUBLIC HEALTH: These issues require greater public awareness and education on the risks and signs associated with them. Regarding domestic violence, I led the 2009 effort to authorize judges to order domestic abusers to surrender their firearms, eight months after my cousin was killed by her estranged boyfriend. I'll work, as I have in the

past, with advocates to develop best practices to address these issues.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: We need to treat children like children and not treat them in a way that turns them into hardened criminals. Juvenile justice should focus on restorative justice, not retribution and punishment. Absent the involvement of a firearm, most misdemeanor offenses committed by juveniles should be resolved through diversionary programs, not incarceration. Mental health and educational services are a must.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: The Consumer Protection Division safeguards Marylanders' health, hard-earned dollars, and identity. I'll combat price-gouging at the pumps and in the grocery stores, take action against predatory lenders, protect seniors and vulnerable individuals from fraudulent scams, prosecute businesses engaging in deceptive and unfair trade practices, and prevent anticompetitive pricing by large corporations.

OTHER PRIORITIES: The Attorney General is engaged in a wide range of issues across the enterprise of state government. Other top priorities for me will be addressing climate change, enforcing environmental standards and environmental justice; protecting workers' rights and enforcing labor standards; protecting civil and voting rights of all Marylanders; and defending against assaults on women's reproductive rights.

U.S. Senator

DUTIES: U.S. Senators make laws along with the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. They also ratify treaties and conduct investigations on issues of national importance. The Senate confirms presidential appointments, including Supreme Court justices.

TERM: Six years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$174,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide. In 2022, Maryland voters will elect one of our two Senators. About one-third of the 100 members of the Senate are elected every two years.

WEBSITE: senate.gov/

QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of United States Senator?

ELECTIONS: What should the federal government's role be in the election process?

COURT SYSTEM: What measures, if any, would you support to reform the US federal court system?

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

IMMIGRATION: What changes would you propose in immigration policy?

ENVIRONMENT: How do you balance environmental concerns with the goal of strengthening our country's infrastructure and economy?

GUN SAFETY: Please provide your position on federal gun safety legislation.

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Chris Chaffee
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Chris Van Hollen
Democratic

Campaign Website: www.vanhollen.org

QUALIFICATIONS: I'm running for the U.S. Senate to uphold our values of justice, equality, and freedom; to protect our democracy; and to continue to deliver real results for Maryland. I've fought successfully to bring key investments to support our schools and students, modernize our infrastructure, protect the Chesapeake Bay, provide more affordable health care and housing, and help our seniors and veterans.

ELECTIONS: Every voice must be heard to achieve the goals of our democracy. I'm an original sponsor of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to fortify our democracy against the Big Lie, protect the right to vote, and end voter suppression. Both go hand-in-hand with my fight to rid our elections of secret, dark money that puts special interests ahead of the American people.

COURT SYSTEM: An independent judiciary made up of diverse voices is a key element of democracy and freedoms. We need to preserve and protect it from those trying to undermine the Constitutional rights it aims to safeguard. I'm working to confirm federal judges with an unwavering commitment to protecting Americans' rights and freedoms and delivering equal justice under the law.

HEALTH CARE: All Americans need affordable health care. I have defended the Affordable Care Act against GOP attacks and worked to increase access to mental health and other services with a goal of universal care. I have championed bills to reduce prescription drug and health care costs including allowing Medicare to negotiate on drug prices, tackle the medical debt crisis, and end health disparities.

IMMIGRATION: America is a nation of immigrants, from our founding to today. I believe that enabling immigrants to become a strong and vital part of our country is not only consistent with our values but is a proven path to strengthening our economic future. I support comprehensive immigration reform, which combines a path to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and others with effective border security.

ENVIRONMENT: We must address the climate crisis. I proposed the Polluters Pay Climate Fund plan to require the worst polluters like Big Oil to help cover climate clean-up costs. We can grow our clean energy economy, prevent more damage, and create good-paying jobs. The new infrastructure law advances that goal with funds for the Bay, climate change, and cleaner options, like transit and electric vehicles.

GUN SAFETY: Too many Marylanders face the loss of loved from gun violence. We need common-sense reforms like universal background checks, and reinstating federal bans on high-capacity magazines and semi-automatic assault weapons. We can build on executive actions on limiting ghost guns, expand community violence prevention programs, and pass my legislation for stronger oversight enhancing gun safety.

OTHER PRIORITIES: We must build a stronger, more inclusive economy with more shared prosperity. We can end tax giveaways for the super wealthy and increase paychecks

for working families while cutting everyday costs on everything from prescription drugs to child care. Also, it's vital that we protect Americans' freedoms and pass the Women's Health Protection Act to codify the legal right to reproductive choice.

Scottie Griffin
Write In

No response received by print deadline; check
Vote411.org

Representative in Congress

Congressional District 1

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

TERM: Two years.

SALARY: \$174,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2020 Census.

WEBSITE: house.gov

QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of a Representative in the United States Congress?

ELECTIONS: What should the federal government's role be in the election process?

COURT SYSTEM: What measures, if any, would you support to reform the US federal court system?

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

IMMIGRATION: What changes would you propose in immigration policy?

ENVIRONMENT: How do you balance environmental concerns with the goal of strengthening our country's infrastructure and economy?

GUN SAFETY: Please provide your position on federal gun safety legislation.

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Andy Harris
Republican

Campaign Website: andyharris.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I have represented the 1st Congressional District since 2011. I am also a licensed physician, and a veteran.

ELECTIONS: The US Constitution clearly gives most election oversight to the states. The US should step in only when discrimination is occurring.

COURT SYSTEM: We need to expand the number of circuit courts in order to decrease

the number of backlogged cases in each circuit and allow for more prompt justice.

HEALTH CARE: We need to preserve the provider-patient relationship as the basis of all health care reform. We also will need to help train more health care providers since they are difficult to find in many rural areas - the Eastern Shore especially. Health care costs also need to be controlled, including the cost of prescription drugs.

IMMIGRATION: We need to enforce immigration law at the southern border, and we need to make sure that we have an adequate number of temporary foreign workers for our tourism and seafood industry especially.

ENVIRONMENT: We need to take environmental concerns into account - but we must remember that it is our strong economy that allows us to afford environmental protection - that's why other poorer nations cannot afford to protect their environment.

GUN SAFETY: We need to enforce all our current gun laws. Clearly, in places like Baltimore City this is not being done, and results in unnecessary violence.

OTHER PRIORITIES: We need to control federal spending in order to control runaway inflation and rising costs. We need to restore parental involvement in our public schools and their curriculum. We need to restore our leadership in energy production - all forms of energy including fossil fuels - to bring down the price of gas and diesel. We need to stop all fentanyl at our southern border.

Heather R. Mizeur
Democratic

Campaign Website: heathermizeur.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a skilled legislator with policy experience at the federal, state and local levels and a reputation as a pragmatic consensus builder who knows how to get things done. I turn plans into action; ideas into laws. As a state legislator, I won passage of bipartisan laws to expand health coverage, protect the environment, and strengthen the economy for small businesses and working families.

ELECTIONS: As a Maryland Legislator, I was proud to have expanded voting access, but not all states have done so. While the states administer elections, the federal government must be a guarantor of the right to vote. I am a strong supporter of the For the People Act, which will expand access to early voting, vote by mail, end gerrymandering and dark money in politics, and clean up government corruption.

COURT SYSTEM: We must remove partisan politics from the judicial system and restore America's confidence in the impartiality of federal courts. I support exploring required term limits for federal judges and SCOTUS justices as well as expanding judicial ethics requirements and extending them to the high court. I am open to any dialogue that finds consensus on reforms to assure the independence of the courts.

HEALTH CARE: I will seek to expand who qualifies for coverage, improve the benefits packages, and will work to bring down out-of-pocket costs through better subsidies and copayment rules. I support allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to reduce Rx prices and will prioritize our rural health care needs by focusing on ways to attract more and better health care providers to our region.

IMMIGRATION: I support comprehensive immigration reform that includes both a clear pathway to citizenship for undocumented

immigrants and a commitment to border security.

ENVIRONMENT: The health of our economy and our environment are intertwined, not mutually exclusive -- and so are my plans for addressing these challenges. My EconomyFirst plan and my Agri-Climate plan lay out visions for investing in infrastructure upgrades while creating clean energy jobs and centering farmers as part of the climate crisis solution while supporting our important agricultural economy.

GUN SAFETY: I support the Second Amendment. I also believe that with important rights come even greater responsibilities. It is critical for Congress to address the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our nation -- it is now the leading cause of death for children. I am in favor of common sense federal gun safety legislation, including federal background checks and red flag laws.

OTHER PRIORITIES: My top priority as your Congresswoman will always be the economy first -- leading conversations and driving policy solutions that will keep our economy vibrant and strong. That starts with tackling inflation, lowering taxes for middle class families and small business owners, and creating more good-paying jobs. You can read my robust 33-page EconomyFirst plan, a blueprint for action, on my website.

Daniel Frank Thibeault
Libertarian

No response received by print deadline; check
Vote411.org

Maryland State Senate

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

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$52,343 as of January 11, 2023.

HOW ELECTED: Elected districtwide. The state is divided into 47 legislative districts. Each district is represented by one State Senator.

WEBSITE: msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmannual/07leg/html/gaf.html

Senator District 36

HOW ELECTED: District 36 includes all of Kent and Queen Anne's counties and parts of Cecil and Caroline counties. One Senator is elected by all qualified voters in the areas cited.

QUESTIONS

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

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: What role should the state play in addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged people in Maryland?

PUBLIC SAFETY: What policies do you favor to reduce crime in Maryland while improving police accountability in communities?

EDUCATION: What actions will you take to improve education in Maryland, especially given the impact of the COVID pandemic?

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

NATURAL RESOURCES: What is your greatest concern regarding Maryland's natural resources/environment, and how will you address it?

LOCAL PROJECTS: What issues or projects are your priority for your own district?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
Republican

Campaign Website: senatorhershey.com

QUALIFICATIONS: Served as your Senator for last 9 years; 6 as the Minority Whip. Proven leadership experience fighting for conservative causes while achieving results for the Eastern Shore. In Annapolis, serve on Finance Committee, Oyster Advisory Commission and Rural Healthcare Workgroup. Also Vice President of Project & Development

for a commercial real estate firm. Earned MBA and degree in Civil Engineering.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: As we emerge from the pandemic's economic turmoil, we must ensure opportunities for all to return to work and succeed. I've supported our job creators & local businesses by passing legislation that lowers the unemployment insurance tax. I passed the Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020 to expand infrastructure & access, as a result over 1,000 new locations are available for connection

PUBLIC SAFETY: First responders play a critical role in keeping our communities safe, working long hours under extraordinary stresses as the first line of defense for the wellbeing of our citizens. It's important that we keep moving forward with policies that help us recruit, retain, and appropriately compensate those who enforce the law, protect our families and businesses from crime, and stand up for victims.

EDUCATION: I strongly support a public education system that encourages and welcomes parental involvement at the administrative and classroom level. I support school choice. There are many options for a positive educational environment. Throughout the pandemic, many families chose alternative options to public education. Those families should not be penalized for making the right choice for their children.

HEALTH: Access to quality healthcare and costs are the biggest challenges. I just passed two bills that: 1) creates the Rural Health Collaborative to support Mid-Shore communities and stakeholders in planning a regional health system; 2) will reimburse EMS for providing the non-emergency community based services in our Mobile Integrated Health program. I'm committed to sustaining the Chestertown Hospital.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Representing the Eastern Shore, I understand the importance

of healthy waterways, clean air and an environment that promotes tourism and outdoor activities. However, our laws and regulations cannot be so burdensome to harm or diminish our commercial seafood and farming industries. I'll continue to fight for our farmers and watermen while seeking a balance between our environment and our economy.

LOCAL PROJECTS:

OTHER PRIORITIES: I focused my two major pieces of legislation on tax relief for Seniors. The Retirement Tax Reduction Act of 2022 creates a \$1,000 to \$1,750 tax credit to retirees. The other removes restrictions and allows counties to create more substantial property tax relief for Seniors and Veterans. These build on my years of advocating for tax relief and strengthening retirement security for Maryland Seniors.

Maryland House of Delegates

DUTIES: Members of the House of Delegates represent residents in each legislative district in the Maryland General Assembly. The General Assembly enacts laws, raises revenue through taxes and fees, and appropriates funds for all state agencies in an annual budget. The General Assembly may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters.

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$52,343 as of January 11, 2023.

HOW ELECTED: Elected district-wide. The state is divided into 47 legislative districts. Each district is represented by

three Delegates, for a total of 141 Delegates statewide.

WEBSITE: msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/gaf.html

House of Delegates 36

HOW ELECTED: District 36 includes all of Kent and Queen Anne's counties and parts of Cecil and Caroline counties. Qualified voters in District 36 cast votes for 3 candidates. The 3 candidates who receive the largest number of votes are elected EXCEPT that each person elected must live in a different county.

QUESTIONS

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

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: What role should the state play in addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged people in Maryland?

PUBLIC SAFETY: What policies do you favor to reduce crime in Maryland while improving police accountability in communities?

EDUCATION: What actions will you take to improve education in Maryland, especially given the impact of the COVID pandemic?

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

NATURAL RESOURCES: What is your greatest concern regarding Maryland's natural resources/environment, and how will you address it?

LOCAL PROJECTS: What issues or projects are your priority for your own district?
OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

House of Delegates District 36 Caroline County

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Jeff Ghrist
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

House of Delegates District 36 Kent County

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Jay A. Jacobs
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

House of Delegates District 36 Queen Anne's County

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Steve Arentz
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Kent County Offices

Kent County Commissioner

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

TERM: 4 years; no term limits

SALARY: \$20,000

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATIONS: Qualified voters in Kent County may vote for 3 candidates. Candidates must be registered voters in Kent County.

QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS: Please write a brief biography including your education, prior work experience, and current position.

EDUCATION FUNDS: Do you favor changing the county's funding for education or not? If so, how and if not, why?

TAX REBATES: What is your position on tax rebates to municipalities that pay both town and county taxes for the same public services?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: What strategies would you initiate to promote increases in population and new businesses?

CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 3

Ron Fithian
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduated from Rock Hall High School. Spent 30 years in the seafood business. Spent 21 years as Town Manager of Rock Hall. Have had the opportunity to serve as County Commissioner of Kent County for going on 24 years.

EDUCATION FUNDS: No, the formula that is used by the State has provided adequate funding for our school system over the years. Kent pays the second highest per pupil cost in the State. The unknown factor is the Kirwan Bill which will mandate an increase in funding in the coming years. We do not know to what amount as of yet.

TAX REBATES: I do not agree with mandatory tax rebates for the municipalities. The County already provides additional services to our municipalities for free. Such as: funding for their fire companies, 911 services, EMS and Paramedic services, Hotel taxes, special projects and really a list to long to mention.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The County is looking into the placement of a new water/wastewater system which will allow for future development of approx. 600 to 700 acres in the Millington/301 area to be used for residential and commercial uses. We have some very ambitious developers ready to get started.

Albert Nickerson
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a lifelong resident of Kent County, and have family history here stemming back to the 1850's. I am a proud graduate of Kent County High School. I live on a farm in Still Pond Neck with my wife Kristen, and our two sons who are currently attending college. I am a self-employed general contractor and the sole owner of Saw Mill Creek Construction which I began in Kent County in 1995.

EDUCATION FUNDS: As Commissioner I will fully fund our schools. The State of Maryland dictates how much funding must be provided to each school system. The Kirwan Commission Blueprint makes Kent's required funding increase dramatically over the next 10 years while the number of students is declining. I will go to Annapolis to advocate for financial help for our schools and our children's futures.

TAX REBATES: I would be willing to consider tax rebates to municipalities in instances where residents are being taxed by both the

County and the town for services that are being provided by their local municipality. However, for those services which the County provides to the town residents, it seems appropriate for County taxes to be paid.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Using outside consultants, obtain an analysis which determines the types of development and new businesses that would best suit our County and defines the currently available workforce. I will encourage affordable housing through public/private partnerships to attract more people to Kent County. I will utilize the knowledge of current locally successful industries in the outreach of new ones.

John F. Price
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a lifelong resident of Kent County. I have been married to Sharon for 40 years and have 2 daughters and 4 granddaughters. My career in law enforcement has spanned 43 years with 7 terms as the elected Sheriff of Kent County. I am graduate of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy and the National Sheriff's Institute. I am a past President of the Maryland Sheriff's Association.

EDUCATION FUNDS: I am in favor of providing adequate funding to insure quality education in the best interest of our students and teachers, with accountability for the investment. I support funding Maintenance of Effort. The Kirwan mandate, however, will require critical consideration and planning for the long term impact on County revenues.

TAX REBATES: Municipal residents receive benefits from services originating from both the county and their town. I believe the county and the municipalities can work together to combine resources to reduce costs for these services. I am open to honest

conversation to discuss how municipal residents might receive relief from double taxation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: There must be an assurance of safety in our communities, good schools, accessible health care, and technology (cell service and internet) in order to support residential and commercial growth. The focus should be for smart growth which can be supported by infrastructure and promotion of areas for development such as in and around the county seat and the 301 corridor.

Ted Gallo
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: My wife and I are raising three children who are all in Kent County Public Schools. I have made a career out of public service and believe that it is a calling. I earned a Masters Degree from Salisbury University and I am working in Annapolis for the State of Maryland. Previously, I have worked on the Chestertown Historic District Commission helping to preserve the history of the area.

EDUCATION FUNDS: Our future depends on our public schools. Making sure that everyone who works at our public schools, from top to bottom, needs to feel as though they are respected and cared for is among the most important tasks the County has. Our schools must be completely and fully funded and it is important that the State assists with giving us the means to implement any changes that they should impose.

TAX REBATES: Having a fair and equitable tax structure that promotes the long term well being of the County is of the utmost importance. I fully support tax rebates to the town if the town asks for them. Kent County is one of the last counties in the state in which

this issue remains. Making the towns more business friendly will help to encourage growth and development in areas that we want it to be.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Families need to feel as though Kent County is a place that will support them. Our tax structure should encourage people to want to invest and hire locally. This means that we need to have quality health care, and both the University of Maryland and that State must be partners. We also need to have top notch schools that will attract young people to start families and raise them.

Tom Herz
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a 22-year resident of Kent County where I live with my wife, Sharon. I work as a consultant for private companies and the U.S. Government. The focus of my work is building diverse and multi-disciplinary teams to update outdated business processes and implement modern software solutions to complicated business problems. I currently serve on Chestertown's Town Council.

EDUCATION FUNDS: I believe the the external pressure of state funding mandates like Kirwan as well as on-going deferred building maintenance require new and creative thinking toward a goal of providing an excellent education and physical plant for our youth to thrive. Our seeming inability to 'get funding right' for our schools serves as a net-negative toward attracting young, adult workers to the county.

TAX REBATES: The question of tax rebates (or differential) is complicated. Towns in the county provide a net savings to the county of well over \$1mm/year by paving their own roads and - in some cases - providing for their

own public safety. The fact that county officers don't explicitly recognize this fact nor take action to remedy the clear taxation inequity is a primary reason I am running.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: First, I think Kent County's Economic and Tourism Director and her staff are doing a fantastic job. I commit to working closely with that team, and the Economic Development and Tourism Commission to build on their good work. I think we can do a better job working to develop outreach strategies for businesses in nearby cities to introduce them to Kent County in a way the draws them here.

Thomas F. Timberman
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: Qualifications: US Army Vet, Lawyer, Int. Economic Development Advisor, Strategic Planning Trainer, Sacred Heart Parish. Boards and committees, inc. Upper Shore Work Force Investment Board and Chesapeake College Foundation Board.

Now working to resettle Ukrainian families..Tom and his wife Judy have lived in Kent County for 25 years: first Rock Hall, Hurricane Isabel, then Chestertown.,

EDUCATION FUNDS: Education Funds: KC Public Schools receive financial support from State and County. KC's continuing general population decline reflected in shrinking student body, thus reducing State funding, & increasing County's. Kirwan Commission adopted in state legislation, Imposed \$10 Million more on KC, over 10 years. KC revenues: 2014 \$54 Mill., 2021 \$49 Mill.

TAX REBATES: Tax Rebates: Tax rebates to incorporated KC towns resumed in 2022. Each received \$70,000 As County revenues increase, the size of the rebates will as well.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Economic Development: Economic development critical

to KC's future. Must be proactively pursued: recruit firms from other states. tap urban telecommuting firms/individuals, train KC workforce in advanced tech, improve KC profile for younger families/older retirees.: Health Care: birth babies, pre/post natal, geriatric specialists; Affordable Housing; improve Public School ratings.

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large

DUTIES: Judges preside in the Court of Special Appeals, the intermediate appellate court in Maryland. The Court reviews the actions and decisions of the Circuit Court and of the Orphans' Court in cases brought before it. The Court, usually sitting in panels of three judges, decides if the trial judge followed the law and legal precedent. The Court is composed of 15 judges: eight at large and one each from seven appellate judicial districts.

SALARY: \$183,633

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

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

voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment.

QUESTIONS

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

COURT SYSTEM: What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's court system and how should these be addressed?

MOTIVATION: What inspires you to serve in this judgeship?

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: What is your judicial philosophy?

CANDIDATES

Vote Yes or No for Continuance in Office

Stuart R. Berger

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Terrence M. R. Zic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Kent County State's Attorney

DUTIES: Serves as chief prosecutor of anyone charged with committing a crime in Kent County. The State's Attorney's office also investigates charges of police

and public official misconduct and misuse of funds.

TERM: 4 years; no term limit

SALARY: \$109,200

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATION: All qualified voters in Kent County vote for one State's Attorney. The State's Attorney must be a member of the Maryland Bar, a resident of Kent County for 2 years, and a registered voter.

QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS: Please write a brief biography including your education, prior work experience, and current position.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: What is your opinion of adopting measures making it less likely for juveniles to be prosecuted as adults?

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING: Under what circumstances would you recommend alternatives to incarceration for those convicted of a crime?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Bryan DiGregory
Democratic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Kent County Clerk of the Circuit Court

DUTIES: The Clerk of the Circuit Court oversees the office that performs

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

TERM: 4 years; no term limits

SALARY: \$140,600 per year for the upcoming four-year term

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATIONS: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for one Clerk of the Court. The Clerk must be a registered voter.

QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS: Please write a brief biography including your education, prior work experience, and current position.

CRITICAL ISSUE: What do you consider to be the most serious problem facing the Clerk of Court's office and what would you do to address it?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Amy L. Nickerson
Republican

Qualifications: I am a lifetime resident of Kent County. 1988-93 Chesapeake College-General & Paralegal Courses 2000 B.A. Behavioral Science Wilmington University 1989-2009 Deputy Clerk; 2010-2013 Chief Deputy Clerk for the Kent County Circuit Court Clerks Office I am currently employed in the

Office of the Public Defender - District 3,
Centreville, MD I

Critical Issue: The Court's resumed full, in-person operations April 4, 2022. The Clerk is the administrative link between the Court, Attorneys and agencies such as Parole & Probation, State's Attorney, Law Enforcement, etc. Going forward, we need to communicate clearly and respectfully to every customer. Reestablish in-person, working relationships with stakeholder agencies and resolve problems as a team.

Sherise L. Kennard
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I bring 28 years of experience in the clerk's office working in various departments, appointed Chief Deputy Clerk 2015-2020, and for the last 2 1/2 years served as Clerk of Court as Mark Mumford's successor and a graduate of the Institute for Court Management National Center for State Courts.

CRITICAL ISSUE: We are here to serve the citizens with integrity & transparency. It is imperative that staff remain current with the Maryland Annotated Code that can affect initiating electronic case filings to recording land/licensing. Having knowledgeable employees continuing their education with the advances of Information Technology provides justice to all.

Kent County Register of Wills

DUTIES: Assists and advises the general public with administrative processes and preparation of forms concerning estates of deceased persons. The Register collects Maryland inheritance tax on estates and

probate fees, maintains all records of wills and estates of deceased persons, acts as clerk to the Orphans' Court, safeguards wills of living persons, and guards the property of minors.

TERM: 4 years; no term limit

SALARY: \$134,899 per year for the upcoming four-year term

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATIONS: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for one Register of Wills. The Register must be a registered voter.

QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Please write a brief biography including education, prior work experience, and current position.

CRITICAL ISSUE: What do you consider to be the most serious problem facing the Register's office and how would you address it?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Kristi Osborn
Democratic

BIOGRAPHY: I am a lifelong resident and 1983 graduate of Kent County. I began working at the Register of Wills in 2003. Upon the retirement of Nancy Lee Jewell, I was appointed by the Kent County Orphans' Court to complete her term and sworn in as Register on March 1, 2017. I was elected Register of Wills in 2018 where I am currently serving the residents of Kent County.

CRITICAL ISSUE: The most serious problem we have currently is trying to protect and

preserve our old records. We are in the process of having our old records imaged and sent to the Maryland archives so they will be safe but still be available to the public.

Kent County Judge of the Orphans' Court

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

TERM: Four years with no term limits.

SALARY: \$6,000

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATIONS: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for 3 Judges of Orphans' Court in 2022. Judges must be residents of Kent County for 1 year and be registered voters.

QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Please write a brief biography including your education, prior work experience, and current position.

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

CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 3

Elizabeth Carroll
Republican

BIOGRAPHY: During my 8-years of serving as Judge of Orphans Court for Kent County I continue to gain knowledge by attending annual meetings and virtual seminars (due to COVID restrictions). Reference material and previous case law is readily available for review. Previously employed by Kent County Planning & Zoning 29 years. Elected & served as a council member for Galena Town Council for 25 years.

COURT NEEDS: The Orphans Court of Kent County works well with the Register of Wills Office being kept informed by staff of pending estates and review of documentation each case.

Susan W. Pritchett
Republican

BIOGRAPHY: Graduated from Sudlersville High, attended Strayer Business College, worked for Mayland. National Bank in many positions, Chesapeake Bank, Heron Point Retirement Community, University of MD Hospital in Chestertown, retired in 2010. Now serving as Judge of Orphan's Court for Kent County..

COURT NEEDS: The probate process which Maryland Orphan's Court oversees and protects an Estate, determines the validity of the Will, insures creditors are paid as well as beneficiaries receive what is entitled to them. Example: if extra days or months are needed to sell a property or appraise assets they may be granted them.

Elroy G. Boyer, Jr.
Democratic

BIOGRAPHY: Kent Co. Orphans' Court Judge for 32 years. Chief Judge for 28 years. Owner of Boyer's Jewelers (38 yrs.) with wife Crystal.
COURT NEEDS: The Orphans' Court insures that all estates are administered properly, allowing to help and serve the people of Kent Co.

Allan W. Schaubert
Democratic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Kent County Sheriff

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

TERM: Four years with no term limits.

SALARY: \$85,000

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATIONS: All qualified voters in Kent County may vote for the Sheriff. Candidates must be 25 years of age, be a resident of Maryland for 5 years, live in Kent County, and be a registered voter.

QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Please write a brief biography including your education, prior work experience, and current position.

DRUG POLICY: What is your opinion on the impact of the legalization of all marijuana use statewide?

COMMUNITY POLICING: Is community policing a goal for Kent County? If yes, how can it be achieved? If no, what is the alternative?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Dennis W. Hickman, Jr.
Republican

BIOGRAPHY: I am 46 years of age and reside in Chestertown with my wife and four children. I graduated from Kent County High School and Salisbury University receiving a degree in Business Management. I was hired by the Kent County Sheriff's Office in 1998 and have been a police trainer, school resource deputy, detective, and now administrator. I am currently Captain, acting Chief Deputy, second in command.

DRUG POLICY: There will be a referendum for the legalization of marijuana in Maryland. The difference between the current law and the proposed law is there is no monetary fine for smaller amounts and larger amounts will still be a criminal offense. I'm not certain what to expect in the event smaller amounts of marijuana is legalized. Whatever the citizens decide we will continue to enforce the laws.

COMMUNITY POLICING: Community policing has always been a goal for the Kent County Sheriff's Office. Being a small department it's hard at times to fill shifts and handle everyday policing. If elected my door will always be open to any person or organization. Additionally, I would look

forward to being a part of improving transparency and working with community groups to increase our involvement in Kent County.

Kent County Board of Education

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

TERM: 4 years; no term limits

SALARY: \$2,000

HOW ELECTED/QUALIFICATIONS: In 2022, all candidates will be on the Primary ballot for a runoff. The 6 receiving the most votes in the Primary will be on the General Election ballot, and of those, the 3 with the most votes will be elected. Candidates must be registered voters in Kent County.

QUESTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS: Please write a brief biography, emphasizing educational level, prior work experience and current position.

STATE REQUIREMENTS: What are 2 of the most challenging state requirements for Kent County Schools? What strategies would you recommend to fulfill these requirements?

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: What is your plan for replacing the state funds that will be lost due to continued declining enrollment in the schools?

CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 3

Tracy Cameransi
Campaign Website:

www.cameransiforschoolboard.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a wife, mother, educator and former business owner in State of Delaware for a Personal Assistance Service Agency. I have been a strong advocate for mental health and have fought for the rights of students and parents. I currently work at Smyrna High School in Kent County Delaware as teacher of the Marketing Pathway.

STATE REQUIREMENTS: Improving academics and keeping students in Public School. Students are leaving the schools because parents and students are unhappy with the direction of the school. I would like to see more parent involvement in the schools and for the administration to be receptive of their ideas and concerns.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: I plan on looking at all of the financials and working with State and Local legislators to increase the enrollment. I also plan on lobbying on behalf of the tax payers to see that their child is getting an outstanding education all while keeping the fiscal costs down.

Aretha L. Dorsey

QUALIFICATIONS: I Aretha Dorsey is a resident of Kent County. Attended KCPS system as have my children and grandchildren. After graduation, now a certified Senior Cosmetologist. I have an Associate degree in Theology. Currently running two self-owned businesses. I have served the community on several committees, including the SACRJ along with several subcommittees including Educational and community.

STATE REQUIREMENTS: What's challenging: the issues of discipline and bullying are in a crisis stage. Until these issues are resolved it is impossible for teachers to teach well. Students need to be able to learn to the best of their abilities, which will improve test results. An improved and positive working relationship between the parents, teachers and administration is crucial to an improved school system.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: Declining enrollment and the Kirwan Commission present financial problems for KCPS. The District 36 delegates worked hard to resolve the problem during the assembly this year without success. The state formula needs to be redone. One size doesn't fit all. Applying for various grants has been a temporary solution for replacing funds needed. I will work to develop an enrollment and marketing plan.

William P. Gale

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Nivek M. Johnson

Campaign Website:

nivekmmjohnson.wordpress.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I was born and raised in Chestertown, Maryland. I was educated in the Kent County and Queen Anne's public school systems. I have a BA Degree from Salisbury University. I attained my Master's in Education from Bowie State University in 2022. Currently, I am a Public School Computer Science/Tech Ed Teacher in Montgomery County. Currently, I'm the Vice President of the Kent County Board of Education.

STATE REQUIREMENTS: A requirement to be implemented in the KCPS System is "Blueprint for Maryland's Future ."Several moving parts include salary changes, curriculum implementation, and accountability measures. Strategies: create an implementation advisory team with students, parents, citizens and teachers to review the systemwide changes and hold monthly town halls to inform all stakeholders on progress.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: Actively seek out educational grants to offset and supplement the school budget. The newly created school foundation will help support the fundraising work to bring additional money for our students and teachers for field trips and innovative practices. The most significant commitment would be advocating and encouraging local and state legislators to fully fund and support our school system.

Trish McGee

QUALIFICATIONS: I am completing a second four-year term on the school board which has included two years as president. I grew up in Kent County, attended schools here and graduated with honors from Washington College. I have been a

reporter/editor with the Kent County News since 1985.

STATE REQUIREMENTS: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act will require all school districts to increase teachers' salaries by 10% between 2019-24 . To be able to do that, Kent will have to tighten its belt even more in a budget that has very little fat. The move toward electric vehicles will be very difficult for Kent because of its two-tier bus runs that would preclude pausing to recharge the vehicle's battery.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: Most of the funding Kent loses due to declining enrollment comes from the county, which provides the biggest part of the budget. In order to offset the loss of local dollars, we need the state to change its funding formula to assist small rural counties. Despite the wealth of property owners, 4 of Kent's 5 schools are Title I schools, i.e. they have a large percentage of low-income students.

Frank B. Rhodes

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduate Washington College, 1983 B.A. I am a self- employed furniture maker in Chestertown Maryland, since 1983.

STATE REQUIREMENTS: 1) The Kirwan Report. Understand the complete program as soon as possible. 2) Our school system, being the smallest, needs more representation with the State.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT: We need a new Superintendent. It starts from the top and I propose positive change to encourage young families to move their children back from homeschooling and private schools.

State Ballot Questions

Question 1

Constitutional Amendment (Ch 82 of the 2021 Legislative Session) Court of Appeals and Special Appeals – Renaming

Changes the names of Maryland's appellate courts from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland and from the Court of Special Appeals to the Appellate Court of Maryland. Under the new law, judges serving on the Court of Appeals will be justices of the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland.

(Amending Article II, Section 6, Article III, Sections 5, 30, and 52, Article IV, Sections 1, 3, 3A, 4B, 5A, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 44E, Article V, Section 6, and Article XVII, Section 3 to the Maryland Constitution.)

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: Under the Maryland Constitution, the highest court in Maryland is called the Court of Appeals, unlike many other states and the federal constitution, which refer to their highest court as the Supreme Court. Judges on the Court of Appeals are referred to as judges rather than justices, which is the title in states that call their highest court the Supreme Court. The

Maryland Constitution also provides for a Court of Special Appeals, which hears most initial appeals from trial courts and whose decisions can be reviewed by the Court of Appeals if one of the parties appeals their decision.

Proposed Change: The name of the highest court in Maryland would be changed from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland and the judges on that court would be referred to as justices. The current name of the Court of Special Appeals would be changed to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

Origin of the Ballot Question: This amendment was proposed in a bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly (Senate Bill 666) in the 2021 session. The judges of the Court of Appeals proposed changing the name of their court to avoid confusion when their decisions are cited in arguments in lawsuits in other states. In most other states, a “court of appeals” is a mid-level appellate court rather than the highest court. Bills to make this change were considered in 2019 and 2020 before finally passing in 2021.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Decisions by a state’s highest court are treated as more persuasive in arguments and a reference to the Supreme Court of Maryland would be readily understood as the final decision regarding Maryland law.
- Decisions by the “Court of Appeals,” the current name of the highest court in Maryland, might be misunderstood as referring to a decision of a mid-level appellate court, instead of the highest court.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Legal research is a highly specialized field and lawyers reviewing decisions of courts in other states are presumed to understand

which court is the highest court.

- There would be administrative costs associated with changing the name of both courts, e.g., revising office letterhead, directory listings, etc.

A Vote FOR Question 1 means the Maryland Constitution will be amended to change the name of the highest court from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland and its judges will be called justices. The name of the Court of Special Appeals, the mid-level appellate court, will be changed to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

A Vote AGAINST Question 1 means that the Constitution will not be amended and the names of the courts will continue to be the Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals.

Question 2

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 808 of 2021 Legislative Session) Legislative Department — Eligibility to Serve as Senators and Delegates — Place of Abode

Adds to the eligibility requirements to serve as a senator or a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly by requiring a person to have maintained a primary place of abode in the district that the person has been chosen to represent.

(Amending Article III, Section 9 to the Maryland Constitution)

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: Under current law, to be eligible to serve as a state senator or delegate, a person must have a residence in the district that person represents for at least six months immediately preceding the date of the person's election. However, if the district has been established for less than six months prior to the date of election, they must have resided there as long as the district has been established. Residency can be established by maintaining a residence and staying there at least occasionally.

Proposed Change: The new law requires, beginning January 1, 2024, a state senator or delegate would be required to have both resided in and maintained a primary place of abode in the district for the same time periods as under current law. Primary abode means that they stay there the majority of the time.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The proposed change is a response to a decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals that a state senator had not abandoned his residence in a district because he had established a residence in another district where he often resided. Adding “primary place of abode” would prevent a legislator from claiming residence in a district based on merely owning or renting a place where they sometimes stayed.

Arguments FOR the amendment: To understand the needs of the people in a district, a legislator should live the majority of the time within the district. Merely owning a residence that they occasionally use should not qualify as living within the district.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment: The proposed change could lead to lawsuits over how frequently a person is actually living in a

particular residence.

A Vote FOR Question 2 means members of the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate will be required to maintain and live the majority of the time in a primary residence within the districts they are representing.

A Vote AGAINST Question 2 means that the law will remain unchanged and a Delegate or Senator will be treated as residing within the district they represent so long as they own or rent a residence there and stay there at least occasionally.

Question 3

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 809 of the 2021 Legislative Session) Civil Jury Trials

Authorizing the General Assembly to enact legislation that limits the right to a jury trial in a civil proceeding to those proceedings in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000, excluding attorney's fees if attorney's fees are recoverable in the proceeding.

(Amending Maryland Declaration of Rights - Articles 5(a) and 23)

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: Currently, either party to a civil lawsuit can ask for a jury trial if more than \$15,000 in damages is being sought. Civil cases in which less than \$30,000 is being sought are filed in District Court and are usually decided by a District Court judge. If more than \$15,000 is being sought and one side requests a jury trial, the case is moved to

the Circuit Court, where all jury trials take place. Which Court hears the case affects discovery – the right to require the other side to present evidence before the trial to assist in preparing arguments. District Courts allow less discovery than Circuit Courts.

Proposed Change: In a civil case, the parties would have a right to a jury trial in Circuit Court only if the amount being sought was more than \$25,000 (raised from \$15,000). Any cases involving smaller amounts (\$25,000 or less) would be decided by a District Court judge without a jury.

Origin of the Ballot Question: Legislation to increase the amount required for a right to a jury trial was proposed in 2015, 2019, and 2020 but was not successful until the 2021 session of the General Assembly. The threshold was last increased in 2010, when it was raised to \$15,000.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Raising the dollar threshold for requesting a jury trial is necessary from time to time to keep up with rising costs.
- Preparing a case for decision by a District Court judge is less expensive for plaintiffs (the party initiating the lawsuit) and defendants.
- Jury trials take more time and require more court resources than non-jury trials, therefore, increasing the threshold for jury trials would save taxpayers money because there would be fewer jury trials.
- More cases could be resolved quickly because a decision by a judge is less time consuming than a jury trial.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Limiting the right to a jury trial by raising the threshold to \$25,000 will be a disadvantage to defendants because more

cases will be tried in the District Court, which has limited rights to discover evidence before trial.

- The right to a jury trial is an important right that should not be limited more than necessary.
- Concerns about the costs of discovery would be better addressed by reforming discovery rules rather than limiting the right to a jury trial.

A Vote FOR Question 3 means the right to a jury trial in civil cases will be limited to those cases where more than \$25,000 is being sought.

A Vote AGAINST Question 3 means that a plaintiff or defendant could demand a jury trial if more than \$15,000 is being sought.

Question 4

Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 45 of the 2022 Legislative Session) Cannabis – Legalization of Adult Use and Possession

Do you favor the legalization of the use of cannabis by an individual who is at least 21 years of age on or after July 1, 2023, in the State of Maryland?

(Adding Article XX, Section 1 to the Maryland Constitution)

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: Under current State law, possession of 10 grams (0.35 ounces) or more of marijuana is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

Possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana is a civil offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$100 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense, and \$500 for a third or subsequent offense. Marijuana is listed on Schedule I under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Proposed Change: This constitutional amendment adds new Article XX "Cannabis" to the Maryland Constitution to provide that on or after July 1, 2023, an individual in the State who is at least 21 years old may legally use and possess cannabis (otherwise known as marijuana). This authorization also requires the General Assembly to pass legislation providing for the use, distribution, possession, regulation, and taxation of cannabis within Maryland.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The Legislature passed cannabis reform legislation (House Bill 837) in the 2022 legislative session. A few of the provisions related to studies, data collection, reports, and income tax subtraction modification have been enacted. Implementation of the more substantive provisions was left up to the voters to decide by this ballot question. If Question 4 is approved, this cannabis reform legislation will take effect.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Eighteen other jurisdictions, including Virginia and the District of Columbia, have legalized recreational cannabis use by adults.
- Maryland has had a medical cannabis program since 2014.
- About half of Maryland residents over the age of 18 admit to using marijuana at some point in their lives.
- Black Marylanders are more than twice as likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white Marylanders despite similar usage rates.

- Cannabis possession accounted for 57% of drug related arrests in Maryland in 2020 creating a burden for law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system.
- Prior offenders will be able to clear their records of cannabis convictions, improving their access to jobs, education, and housing.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- The amounts authorized in this legislation are significantly lower than the amounts found in the Maryland medical marijuana law, potentially creating confusion for the public.
- The law does not eliminate the illegal buying and selling of cannabis products.
- It does not regulate the safety of cannabis products in the market.
- Use of high-potency concentrates of THC, the main active ingredient of cannabis, especially by those under the age of 21, has been linked to addiction, psychiatric disorders, and hospitalization .

A Vote FOR Question 4 means beginning July 1, 2023, possession of up to 1.5 ounces (42.52 grams) and use of cannabis by adults over the age of 21 will be legal in Maryland.

A Vote AGAINST Question 4 means possession of 10 grams (0.35 ounces) or more of cannabis will continue to be a misdemeanor crime punishable by up to six months in jail.

Question 5

Constitutional Amendment (Ch 539 of the 2022 Legislative Session - House Bill 868)

Circuit Court for Howard County – Judges Sitting as Orphans' Court

Repeals county elections of Howard County orphans' court judges and requires the Howard County Circuit Court judges to sit as the orphans' court for Howard County. The current law provides for the voters of Howard County to elect three orphans' court judges. Under the amended law, a party could no longer appeal a final judgment of the Howard County Orphans Court to the Howard County Circuit Court and would instead take an appeal directly to the Court of Special Appeals.

(Amending Article IV, Sections 20 and 40 to the Maryland Constitution)

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: The Orphans' Court (similar to probate court in other states) supervises the property and finances of deceased residents. This includes the payment of debts, the distribution or transfer of property, and the guardianship of minor children and their property. It resolves disagreements and contested questions about an estate and also approves the payment of fees. Currently, the Maryland Constitution establishes an elected Orphans' Court of three judges in all counties, except in Harford and Montgomery counties, which chose to abolish their Orphans' Courts and have those cases heard in Circuit Court. Any citizen over the age of 18 who has lived in Howard County for at least one year may be elected a judge of the orphans' court. A dissatisfied party may appeal a decision of the orphans' court to the Circuit Court for Howard County.

Proposed Change: This amendment would eliminate the election of orphans' court judges in Howard County and would instead require

the Circuit Court judges to also serve as the Orphans' Court. If this amendment passes, a dissatisfied party wishing to appeal an Orphans' Court decision in Howard County would take the appeal directly to the Court of Special Appeals. This amendment must be approved by BOTH a majority of statewide voters and a majority of the voters in Howard County before it can take effect.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The Howard County Delegation requested the Amendment, which was then approved by the Maryland General Assembly as House Bill 868.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Moving the orphan's court function to the Circuit Court will result in the cases being heard by judges with a professional legal background and more closely align with the practice in most other jurisdictions. Only

Maryland and Alabama currently allow non-lawyers to serve as elected judges in non-routine or contested probate matters. All other states require such judges to be lawyers admitted to the bar, as do Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince Georges' County.

- The Circuit Court, sitting as an orphans' court, will be able to easily integrate the workload into its schedule and resolve the issues more efficiently. The Orphans' Court currently operates on a part-time basis, one day per week. The Circuit Court operates full-time, 5 days per week.

- The Maryland State Bar Association and most of the judicial reform commissions that have considered the matter have recommended the abolition of the Orphans' Courts.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Much of the work of the Orphans' Courts

consists of approving a variety of orders dealing with the administration of estates that may not require the expertise of an attorney.

- More sweeping changes may make this amendment unnecessary. A 2021 Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans Courts made recommendations that are currently awaiting action by the Maryland General Assembly, and which would also require an amendment to the Maryland Constitution.

A Vote FOR Question 5 means Circuit Court Judges will serve as the Orphans' Court in Howard County.

A Vote AGAINST Question 5 means the Howard County Orphans' Court will continue to operate as it has in the past, with elected lay judges serving on a part-time basis.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

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

League of Women Voters of Kent County

PO Box 374
Chestertown MD 21620
kent-lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com

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Thank You!