



2022 Gubernatorial General Election Voters' Guide for Queen Anne's County

November 8, 2022

[last updated September 20, 2022]

About This *Voters' Guide*

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County and covers all races for which voters in Queen Anne's 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.



Table of Contents

Maryland Statewide Offices	4
Maryland Governor / Lieutenant Governor	4
CANDIDATES.....	4
Maryland Comptroller	8
CANDIDATES.....	8
Maryland Attorney General.....	9
CANDIDATES.....	9
U.S. Senator	10
CANDIDATES.....	11
Representative in Congress.....	12
Congressional District 1	12
CANDIDATES.....	12
Maryland State Senate	13
Senator District 36.....	13
CANDIDATES.....	14
Maryland House of Delegates	14
House of Delegates 36.....	15
House of Delegates District 36 Caroline County	15
CANDIDATES.....	15
House of Delegates District 36 Kent County	15
CANDIDATES.....	15
House of Delegates District 36 Queen Anne's County	15
CANDIDATES.....	15
Queen Anne's County Offices	15
Queen Anne's County Commissioner	15

Queen Anne's County Commissioner At Large	16
CANDIDATES	16
Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 1	17
CANDIDATES	17
Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 2	18
CANDIDATES	18
Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 3	20
CANDIDATES	20
Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 4	21
CANDIDATES	21
Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large.	22
CANDIDATES	23
Queen Anne's County State's Attorney	23
CANDIDATES	23
Queen Anne's County Clerk of the Circuit Court	24
CANDIDATES	24
Queen Anne's County Register of Wills	24
CANDIDATES	25
Queen Anne's County Judge of the Orphans' Court	25
CANDIDATES	25
Queen Anne's County Sheriff	28
CANDIDATES	28
Queen Anne's County Board of Education	28
Queen Anne's County Board of Education at Large	29
Candidates	29

Queen Anne's County Board of Education District 1	30
Candidates	30
State Ballot Questions	31
Question 1	31
Question 2	31
Question 3	32
Question 4	33
Question 5	34



**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:

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

110 Vincit Street
Suite 102
Centreville, MD 21617
410-758-0832, Fax: 410-758-1119
www.qacelections.com
Email Address: Christine.Jones@maryland.gov

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 during Early Voting, or
- deposit it in a County ballot drop-box:

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
BALLOT DROP-BOXES**
3 Locations:

GO MART, 741 Main St, Church Hill MD

KENT ISLAND FIRE DEPT, 1610 Main St, Chester MD

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY OFFICE
BUILDING**, 110 Vincit St, Centreville 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
7 am - 8 pm**

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS (2)

You can vote early at

KENT ISLAND FIRE DEPT, 1610 Main St, Chester MD
**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY OFFICE
BUILDING**, 110 Vincit St, Centreville 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.



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/08conoff/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
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.

SALARIES: \$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
Democratic

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/mdmannual/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](https://www.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

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

House of Delegates District 36 Kent County

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Jay A. Jacobs

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

House of Delegates District 36 Queen Anne's County

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Steve Arentz

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Queen Anne's County Offices

Queen Anne's County Commissioner

ABOUT THE OFFICE: There are five County Commissioners, four of whom are elected at large, with one residing in each of the four County Commissioner Districts of the county. The fifth, also elected at large, holds the position of President of the County Commissioners for the first year of his or her term and may reside in any area of the county. Following the first year of their term the County Commissioners annually, by majority vote, select one Commissioner to serve as President of the County Commissioners.

TERM: Four years, with no term limits

SALARY: \$25,000

HOW ELECTED: Select one candidate from at-large and each district, for a total of 5.

QUESTIONS

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

STIMULUS MONEY: What are your priorities for using the federal stimulus money, and do your priorities for using the stimulus funds for infrastructure include broadband?

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: What are your priorities for the county's land use policies?

EDUCATION: What steps will you take to improve community support for the public schools?

PUBLIC HEALTH: How can we safeguard the county's health against future epidemics?

EMPLOYMENT/ JOBS: What steps should the county government take to encourage economic development and job growth?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: How would you increase the availability of affordable housing for county residents?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

Queen Anne's County Commissioner At Large

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Jim Moran
Republican

Campaign Website:

www.citizensforjimmoran.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been blessed with owning and operating two successful businesses for the last 30 plus years though the good and bad times. I am a family man that has raised three children with my wife Marybeth, and now we are presently enjoying 5 grandchildren. I was appointed the At-Large seat in 2013, and have won the last two elections, I thank the voters of Queen Anne's Co. for their confidence in me

STIMULUS MONEY: Yes, Broadband is the number one priority for me, connectivity has proven crucial during the pandemic. Park upgrades and expansion of outdoor activities along with aging infrastructure projects.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: We are just completing the 2022 Comp Plan update, which has had it's challenges due to the fact that we have no sewer capacity remaining for any large, or small housing projects that are not already in the process. The capacity issue is what needs to be worked on before anything else can happen.

EDUCATION: The pandemic has had such an adverse effect on our community when it comes to education. The push for no mask, back in class, and no more virtual learning

has strained the relationship between parents and our school system. Hopefully time will heal this and the focus can be on the students and what is best for them.

PUBLIC HEALTH: We have learned a great deal from the Covid pandemic. We now have a warehouse full of protective gear for our county and first responders. We know what works to keep our first responders safe, and I think each household, person has seen first hand what they need to do to stay healthy.

EMPLOYMENT: We have an Economic Development Commission, along with an Economic Development Department that has some of Queen Anne's Counties best minds working to bring jobs to the county. Honestly, government should be there to support the growth of local jobs in any way possible. This includes supporting grants for business expansions and relocations to our county.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Great question, but now that we have a capacity issue at our sewer plant, as in there is no more capacity, things have changed. We must address the lack of capacity, and how we can get more capacity and possibly earmark the new capacity to affordable housing projects. The 2nd thing that needs to happen is allowing higher density on these these projects so that developers are willing to build them.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Making Queen Anne's County number one in the state when it comes to farm preservation. Since I have been in office we have preserved more farmland than any other county in the state. We need to move forward with replacing both the Board of Education building and the County Detention center. Both of these projects are high priority, and need to be done.

Merle Joy Schwartz
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: With twenty years of leadership experience in the corporate and nonprofit space, I bring to Queen Anne's County a fresh perspective and appreciation for the diversity of thought that our county represents. I ask why and what if questions, while being committed to data-based decision making. I have managed individuals, teams of people and been accountable for multi-million-dollar projects.

STIMULUS MONEY: Using stimulus funds for affordable broadband with customer choice is one of my top three priorities. There should be competition for broadband services which is healthy. My two additional priorities include infrastructure and education. We need a fact-based plan for repair and rebuilding of roads and the bridge. Our public education must be focused on academics and 21st century skills.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: My priorities for land use include planning in a way that acknowledges the different perspectives while setting policy that is not influenced by attempts to bend policy after it is fairly set. I believe that land use should be planned to encourage the rural feel, maintenance of farm-to-business development, and open to growth where there is municipal infrastructure to support it.

EDUCATION: I would take steps to improve communication so residents of our county are aware of the good practices and programs in place, the challenges our schools face, how students are performing, and the efforts of our teaching staff. I would be sure that communications share data. I would also strongly encourage the appreciation of teachers so that we are not victims of the national teacher shortage.

PUBLIC HEALTH: We need to stay ahead of developing issues by using data with frequent clear communication, in multiple formats. Public announcements should be frequent that include pressing issues such as opioid addiction signs and treatment resources, as well as accurate information about all vaccines for multiple health issues. Lastly, I feel that we must increase the mental health services for everyone.

EMPLOYMENT: We should do a full evaluation of the existing incentive programs and the effectiveness of these programs. We should be asking if the programs are bringing in businesses that contribute to our tax base with jobs that are not only at minimum wage. We need to evaluate the license review process to assure objectivity. Our programs must avoid influences that do not add value for our residents.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I would examine the existing policy for comprehensiveness and honesty of implementation. We want people not just to work in QAC, but we need people to be able to afford to live here as well. This is a critical point, particularly for those who provide services such as teaching, medical, and protection (fire and police). When people live where they work, they care more.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I believe that the county commissioners should make decisions based on good information- data and facts, truthfulness, and integrity. I am committed to implementing regular communication that is transparent and responsive to our residents. I would make sure that our communication plan is comprehensive and designed to reach our citizens in a wide variety of formats.

Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 1

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Jack Wilson
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: 1. Serving as Commissioner for 6 years has allowed me too have extensive knowledge of what it takes to govern the County 2. 20+ Years In Business allows me to have a more realistic approach to manage Fiscal issues 3. Serving on Maryland Association Of Counties has given me the ability to affect change on State Legislation 4. Listening, Learning and using facts to make decisions

STIMULUS MONEY: 1. Use money to keep the County prepared for future Catastrophic incidents 2. Spend the money only on Capital projects so as to not create more long term operational costs, this is critical as we will not have this money to use in the future 3. Capital projects related to Broadband expansion, Park, Pier and landing upgrades, infrastructure related to helping redevelop empty Commercial space

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: 1. Large development will be stagnant due to Sewer and Water limitations as well as Septic restrictions by the State 2. Redevelopment of existing Commercial spaces remains a priority 3. Help facilitate growth in incorporated towns where infrastructure is available 4. Support our farmers in there efforts to diversify there

revenue potentials for future sustainability 5. Continue responsible growth

EDUCATION: 1. Continue to educate the Community on the Kirwan Bill and be sure that everyone understands the short and long term effects on our local Education 2. Continue efforts to grow our Career Education programs for our High Schools and College and create dual enrollment pathways 3. Stay fiscally responsible on our Education spending so we can have quality teachers, and modern schools for our students

PUBLIC HEALTH: 1. Spend wisely to prepare for future events 2. Continue to develop emergency response plans within the County agencies for a wide variety of situations including Pandemics, Storms, Active Shooter, Traffic etc.

EMPLOYMENT: 1. Continue to support our excellent Economic Dev Department and their partners to bring Business to QAC 2. Support our Farmers in their efforts to expand revenue sources and create farming Apprenticeships that can help our Farmers with Labor 3. Support Waterman in there efforts to continue to operate without undue regulations 4. Continue to Explore other innovative ways to attract new Business

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: 1. Revamp the Counties MPDU program 2. Explore the use of Public, Private Partnerships which have been used elsewhere to create affordable housing Communities with an emphasis on creating Pride in ownership and family growth potential

OTHER PRIORITIES: 1. My 2 main priorities remain the same since 2014. Get Fiber Broadband to every Home and Business and create the strongest Career training program in the State. 2. Create jobs to be able to work Local and keep our kids here 3. Continue to make Queen Annes County's way of life the reason we all Love to Live here

Marion Grier Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I've been a copy editor/production manager for 30+ years. Locally, I've volunteered with Hospice and the League of Women Voters, and served on the QAC Democratic Central Committee. Commissioners need to represent all facets of our community: rural & urban, farmers & commuters, wealthy & working class. The board has been pretty homogeneous since 2010. It's time for some new voices to be heard.

STIMULUS MONEY: The first priority is to find and use all the money on the table! Yes for infrastructure. Yes for expanded broadband access. I want careful oversight and efficient use of monies spent, and the federal benefits need to be dispersed to all corners of QAC.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:

Comprehensive Plan is up for approval. I favor smart growth in and around towns—enhancing communities and preserving agricultural areas. Smart growth areas should include affordable housing units for local workforce as well as more up-scale development.

EDUCATION: This is big. Teachers, students, and families have borne 2 yrs disruption by the pandemic. Teachers should be celebrated, not harassed, for keeping students engaged and learning under difficult circumstances. Instead, wages are stagnate and benefits are being cut. Education is our most important investment—to gain a future tax base, future business, future wealth. It's the path to success!

PUBLIC HEALTH: Vaccinate kids for school. Believe in the science. It worked for polio, small pox, measles. We cannot control

pandemics or other natural catastrophes, we can only control how we deal with it. Our other epidemic—opiods & substance abuse—requires increased mental health expenditures and availability.

EMPLOYMENT: See above under "EDUCATION." Businesses want to be where good education is—they want a trained workforce, whether it's college prep or technical training. And they want workers who can afford to live in the area.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Require a specific percentage of affordable units (rent & own, build affordable condos & apts) in towns/areas with schools & public works. When employees cannot afford to live here, they soon enough won't work here. Working people are scrambling to stay ahead of their bills, and the county needs to pay attention.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Affordable and easily accessible healthcare, including mental healthcare, for men, women, and children.

Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 2

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Patrick McLaughlin
Republican

Campaign Website: patrick4qac.com

QUALIFICATIONS: Stepping out in faith to fight for all families & children. My business ownerships in Medical & Insurance fields over the yrs, 20 yrs volunteering w/ conservative values, Together let's leave this county better with an improved quality of life for future

generations and taxpayers. As the only true conservative for D2, we need Tax Cuts - property & city income; Zipper Machine for CBB, Education, etc

STIMULUS MONEY: My platform is on my website patrick4QAC.com. Quality of Life, education, and traffic solution issues: We need County Tax reductions, without cutting services, Road "Zipper Machine" movable cement barrier system for improved traffic flow, Education, Public Safety: Back the Blue! Support Sheriff Hofmann's dept, Upgrade Parks & Rec, Term limits 8 years total for D2 (12 years is too long)

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: No more large developments on Kent Island; sewer, water and infrastructure are maxed out. Preserve open spaces. Upgrade parks, recreation and add animal park. Support well planned, sustainable, up county residences and businesses. Expand commercial in existing vacant offices to keep property taxes down. On some properties, support ability to add a cottage for Mom & Dad, keeping families together.

EDUCATION: Support teachers, push dollars down into the classrooms, Expand Trade/Vocational (CTE) Career & Technical Ed (Farming, auto, firefighting, nursing, STEM, ROTC, cosmetology, etc.) these are good alternatives to college as a choice for skills to step into high paying jobs. Remove politics from schools; allow homeschooled and private school students participation in school extra-curricular activities

PUBLIC HEALTH: While I am not a clinician we have all seen that pandemics have no borders. Encourage DOH to expand prevention and nutrition for our families which will benefit and possibly curb long term effects. Team with medical community & EMS will allow for implementing procedures quickly

if there is an epidemic; well stocked PPE, access to treatment therapeutics & medication directly from manufacture & govt

EMPLOYMENT: Tax Relief for Businesses and Residence: work with Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce to fill vacant office spaces and empty store fronts. Cut red tape for new businesses. Reduce time for startups. As businesses increase tax revenue that can reduce residential property taxes. Cut taxes to offset inflation, without losing services. Democrat Inflation is highest in our children's lives

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I will work with the County Health Department and Housing Board to determine more affordable housing, including for veterans who have selflessly and Patriotically served our Great country. I am the only candidate running on tax cuts for income and property tax, which is resonating throughout the county.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I will not sell you empty promises. I will work for your family and the next generation to serve YOU, not myself. No deals or bending the rules to benefit a few with special property tax relief, City will Not mow my whole lawn. No power plays here to personally benefit me. I will bring a common-sense perspective. patrick4QAC.com "Zipper machine" I humbly please ask for your vote on Nov 8th.

Andrea Alduino
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: As a resident of Queen Anne's County for over thirty-two years, I have been active in a number of community organizations. I am a home care physical therapist. In this role, I interact with various private, federal, and state agencies to provide

quality care for my patients. As a home care provider, I have a unique opportunity to see firsthand, the challenges residents face in their daily lives.

STIMULUS MONEY: I would make sure that the county applies for all available federal funds. It is important that Queen Anne's County use this stimulus money in an equitable and responsible manner. One issue ignored by the current county commission is the lack of affordable and accessible broadband, especially in our more rural areas. It is imperative that all students are connected to the internet.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: I favor a balanced approach to growth. We must be mindful that any additional development does not over burden the county's current infrastructure. When approving zoning permits it is essential that our roads and public schools be considered in any future development. I am also a big proponent of increasing the number of walking and bike trails, especially in north county.

EDUCATION: Being a public school advocate is the most important job as a county commissioner. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Queen Anne County's public schools and our teachers and staff. In order to enhance the quality of education in the county, the county commission needs to provide additional funding to recruit and retain talented educators.

PUBLIC HEALTH: I have firsthand knowledge of how COVID-19 has affected our community. I believe that we follow the science. It is important to heed recommendations of federal, state, and county health agencies. I will also work with health experts to decrease the devastating impact of opioid addiction and abuse in our community.

EMPLOYMENT: All too often, the best and brightest young people leave the county to find employment opportunities. As commissioner, I would expand the collaboration between Chesapeake College and our public schools, especially in the IT field. I would also support incentives to attract employers to the county.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: One of the reasons why young families find it difficult to live in Queen Anne's County is due to the lack of affordable housing—both rentals and private homes. I would encourage and incentivize developers to build budget-friendly homes.

OTHER PRIORITIES: As a commissioner, I will fight to maintain the unique rural characteristics of the county. More attention must be paid to the fragile environment as we prepare for climate change in our communities.

Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 3

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Phil Dumenil
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been a sitting commissioner for 8 years now and bring experience in balancing the county budget, supporting local business, and the education system in our county. I have always been an advocate for the voice of our citizens, and will continue to be.

STIMULUS MONEY: Our county received CARES money which was and will continued to

be used for relief funding programs such as rental assistance, transportation issues and other various programs that suffered because of the pandemic. Federal and state grant monies available for infrastructure improvements and broadband connectivity, will be used for these projects.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: The updating of our Comp Plan will establish, and address our priorities, and the direction that will best serve our counties future land use patterns. I have a tremendous amount of faith in our planning director and her staff to map out a plan that will best serve our citizens regarding population, transportation, sewer capacity, and proper available affordable housing.

EDUCATION: I have had two children graduate from QAC schools and one who will in two years. I have and will always be supportive of our teachers, administrators, and of course our students. I have always been in favor and voted to support proper funding levels in every budget process I have been involved in going clear back to my first administration.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Our county has an amazing medical director and his team at our county health department are the best. I believe what we all learned and will take away from our experience's with COVID and what will be the new habits that we have adapted to in our day to day lives will help keep us safer against future spreads.

EMPLOYMENT: A good balance of residential and commercial growth can and will always stimulate our economy. I will work with our Economic and development staff to look into the agricultural technologies and Web support business for our strong agricultural heritage.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I feel that one way to address the affordable housing crisis that

exist in our county is to take a close look at our MPDU program and see if it isn't antiquated, and in need of an update in how moderately priced housing is available.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Some other priorities I feel are important to address in our community is more public access to parks, beaches and landings. More available multi-purpose fields to address the growing need to accommodate all our youth sports programs, as well as our adult outdoor activities.

Lynn Mason
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: The most important qualification for this office is listening to the residents you serve. I have a long and accomplished career as a commercial lender and bank manager and am a licensed MD CPA so understand financials, taxes & budgets. I am Board Chair for the American Red Cross and in that role I lead the Board, fundraise, liaison with armed forces & blood services staff and educate the public.

STIMULUS MONEY: Invest in local businesses, local schools and local infrastructure. Help working families get affordable child care. Get competitive bids for broadband. Invest in mental health services particularly for our youth. Work with developers on affordable housing for our emergency personnel, seniors and teachers. Stock food pantries. Continue to support the homeless and disadvantaged

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: Plan for managed growth while working to protect critical areas and wildlife. Educate farmers, businesses and homeowners on conservation measures. In the 16 years I have lived in QAC, there has been so much development,

primarily on KI. What we leave behind our children and grandchildren will inherit.

EDUCATION: Our educators and students have really struggled due to the pandemic. Pay educators a competitive wage to stay in QAC to teach and don't underfund QAC schools as an educated work force is essential. For those who are not college bound, promote technical schools as we all know there is a shortage of boat mechanics, etc. Educate students on financial acuity so they understand budgeting and credit.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Listen to the experts regarding vaccination necessity so we can protect the elderly and medically vulnerable. Continue to use and update social media to communicate with and educate the public. Utilize public health experts to speak to schools, businesses and seniors to answer vaccine questions. Find out the reasons for vaccine reticence and address them.

EMPLOYMENT: Work to come up with strategies to incent businesses to offer a living wage and worker benefits in QAC. Match what is taught in QAC high schools to what skills are needed in the CURRENT job market. Use stimulus funds to drive SMART, long lasting economic development

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Invest in more housing density east of KI such as apartments and townhouses which are more affordable for young families, teachers and emergency personnel, and seniors. Use stimulus funds to work with developers to provide a portion of what they build as affordable housing.

OTHER PRIORITIES: No response

Queen Anne's County Commissioner District 4

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Chris Corchiarino
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I have served as County Commissioner for the last three and half years, two of those years as President of the Board of Commissioners . I serve as Chairman of the Upper Shore Regional Council, I am a fellow in the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance. I am on the Board of Trustees for the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

STIMULUS MONEY: County received many grants: ARPA; CARES; CMC2; Community Development Block Grant; COVID DES Grant; ESG-CV-1; FEMA Public Assistance; HDC2; HSP, used for a variety of initiatives--rental assistance, transportation, economic development, home meals, small business stimulus, restaurant stimulus, emergency services, infrastructure. Commissioners are committed to connect all citizens to internet.

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: During my tenure as County Commissioner we oversaw the Comprehensive Plan update. The initiatives in that plan are too voluminous for this post. I encourage everyone to read the comp plan.

EDUCATION: As a graduate of Queen Anne's County Public Schools I have long been a supporter of our school system. I currently serve as the Commissioner liaison to the

Board of Education and meet regularly with Dr. Saelens. Through these meetings we work to strategically discuss the school system current needs and project future needs and improvements.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Prior to covid the County built the best, award winning emergency services department in Maryland. During covid we quickly scaled a robust Emergency Operations Command capable of effectively responding to health concerns. Continuing to support emergency services is a top priority for the Commissioners.

EMPLOYMENT: The County built a strong Economic Development department. This team was stress-tested during covid and performed exceptionally well. Partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, this team was able to roll out grants and other resources to retain viable businesses. Additionally, the team effectively reached out to new businesses that opened their doors in Queen Anne's County over the last 3 years.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Housing cost is market driven. QA has a low housing inventory. As the price of market-rate units increase, so does surrounding housing. To increase affordable housing, there needs to be a mechanism to allow it. Other jurisdictions have found that high density multifamily housing can more easily distribute the cost burden and create substantially more affordable units.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I believe local government operates best when it operates quietly in the background. Citizens should be able to realize the benefit of effective services, without the distraction of a dysfunctional government. I believe this current Board of Commissioners has worked hard to achieve this goal. If re-elected, I will

continue to serve as I have over the duration of my current term.

Deborah Krueger
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been actively involved in my community since moving to Queen Anne's County 25 year ago. I volunteered in my children's schools during both elementary & middle school, served as PTA President and Vice-President at the elementary, middle & high school level. I currently hold a seat on the QAC DCC. I owned and ran my own business before selling it and hold both a B.A. & M.S. in education.

STIMULUS MONEY: There must be careful oversight on efficient use of monies spent. We must disperse the benefits of that money to all corners of QAC. My priorities would include: Infrastructure Broadband access and affordability Education

DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE: The Comprehensive Plan was just approved. I favor smart growth in and around towns—enhancing communities and preserving agricultural areas. We must keep the rural nature and traditions of our county but we must also support the continued development of municipalities so that income there can help fund those rural areas.

EDUCATION: Teachers, students & families have borne the brunt of the pandemic and it's effect on education. Teachers should be applauded for the efforts they made to keep students engaged and leaning under very difficult circumstances. Instead teachers pay is stagnate, benefits are being cut & planning time is being reduced. Education is the most important investment a county can make!

PUBLIC HEALTH: We can follow the science! The Dept. of Health & the county as a whole can stay ahead of developing issues by using data & having frequent clear communication to citizens. I would encourage Covid vaccinations for all eligible students just as other vaccines are required. We need to expand mental health services & continue to educate the population about opioid addiction & the supports available.

EMPLOYMENT: Begin by having a strong vocational education program in our own schools. Those who are trained here may stay here and start business' here! I would evaluate existing incentive programs & make they have strong application reviewers that are objective and who can make wise decisions

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Every newly built community should be required to have some amount of affordable housing included in their plan. If people cannot afford to live here they will not work here! Affordable housing attracts jobs!

OTHER PRIORITIES: The County Commissioners should make decisions based on factual information, truthfulness and integrity. They should be committed to regular communication that is transparent and responsive.

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

DISCRIMINATION: What policies will you implement to prevent discrimination in law enforcement?

ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON: In what situations would you recommend alternatives to prison in sentencing persons convicted of crimes?

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: How will you address the growing problem of substance abuse?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: How will you address the problems of domestic violence?

JUVENILE JUSTICE: What are the greatest needs of our juvenile justice system?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

are protected and that justice is equal for all citizens. My office does not condone or tolerate any forms of discrimination or prejudice. We hold police officers accountable for integrity.

ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON: In every appropriate scenario we utilize treatment as an aspect of sentencing or adjudication. We seek to rehabilitate offenders by utilizing drug treatment, abuser intervention programs for domestic violence matters, mental health treatment and all available resources at our disposal to incorporate rehabilitation to prevent recidivism.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: The emphasis has to be rehabilitation for offenders to address the disease of addiction. When appropriate we need to send offenders to inpatient drug rehabilitation and we are about to initiate a drug court program in this County to constantly monitor those with substance abuse problems to hold them accountable for recovery. Otherwise the system becomes a revolving door of incarceration.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: My prosecutors and I incorporate incarceration and punishment when appropriate as a deterrent to violent, abusive offenders. We also use several programs locally provided by domestic violence prevention organizations to reform offenders and change their conduct and mindset. An emphasis is placed on keeping victims informed and safe from further abuse.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: There is a need for more accountability for juvenile offenders. There is a serious lack of programs to reform and rehabilitate youthful offenders which results in an ultimate transition of these same offenders entering the adult criminal justice system because of the lack of court sanctions and accountability. Juveniles, when

Queen Anne's County State's Attorney

ABOUT THE OFFICE: He or she is the chief law enforcement officer for the county and prosecutes all jailable motor vehicle cases, in addition to criminal, juvenile and certain civil zoning and animal control violations that occur with Queen Anne's County. The State's Attorney must be a member of the Maryland Bar.

TERM: Four years with no term limits

SALARY: \$161,333.

QUESTIONS

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

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Lance G. Richardson
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been a prosecutor for the last twenty years in Queen Anne's County. I have been the State's Attorney for Queen Anne's County for the last fourteen years. I have the trial experience and knowledge of the position to act in the interest of justice in the disposition of all matters that are subject to the purview of the Office of the State's Attorney for Queen Anne's County.

DISCRIMINATION: My office thoroughly reviews all evidence related to each and every case that we adjudicate. We review body camera footage, witness interviews and reports to ensure every citizen's civil rights

appropriate, should be committed and to effective programs.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I want to continue to keep Queen Anne's County as the safest jurisdiction in Maryland by holding violent offenders accountable with prison sentences. My office will continue to provide exceptional victims' services and communication and hold all offenders accountable so that this County doesn't become a catch and release jurisdiction like so many other jurisdictions in Maryland.

Queen Anne's County Clerk of the Circuit Court

ABOUT THE OFFICE: The Clerk of the Circuit Court is a state official who is locally elected. The responsibility of the Clerk is to manage the many different administrative duties for the Circuit Court which includes recording land transactions and the processing of court records in the electronic case management system. The Clerk's office processes all civil, family, criminal, and juvenile actions and collects all court fees. The office records land deeds, mortgages, plats, conveyances, and other land record documents and liens. Recording includes reviewing and processing land documents electronically and collecting recordation and transfer taxes. A percentage of all the financial collections are disbursed to the county, incorporated towns, and other state agencies pursuant to law. The Clerk administers oaths to Judges, elected officials and Governor appointees and issues marriage and business licenses and performs civil wedding ceremonies. The

office issues notary public commissions, and processes passport applications. Other responsibilities include managing the Clerk's office budget as set by the State Administrative Office of the Court and all financial transactions are subject to audit by the State Legislative Audit division.

TERM: Four years with no term limits

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

QUESTIONS

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

CUSTOMER SERVICE: How will you maintain and improve service for the public?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Katherine Beane Hager
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I have 30 years of experience working in all areas of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Through years of courses in court management, I received a Judicial Administration degree and am a Certified Court Executive and Manager through the National Center for State Courts. Most recently I was chairperson of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks and in other leadership positions of the Judiciary.

PRIORITIES: To provide access to justice for all and promote public trust and confidence in all services provided. The courts continue to offer more remote access for litigants and my involvement in many Judiciary committees provides the insight that is needed for the citizens. To bring more online services to the public in land records/licensing. Continue to produce perfect legislative audits.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Through my educational background and expertise in leading court operations, I will continue to provide the high level of service that is expected. This will be maintained by leading/supporting employees with training and staying current with policies and procedures. I will continue to be innovative in providing online access to licensing and other services.

Queen Anne's County Register of Wills

ABOUT THE OFFICE: The Register of Wills keeps records of wills and estates, collects inheritance taxes, and acts as clerk to the Orphans' Court. The Register of Wills is authorized to oversee the administration of decedents' estates and to provide assistance to people administering estates. The State of Maryland pays the operating costs of this office.

TERM: Four years with no term limits

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

QUESTIONS

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

CUSTOMER SERVICE: How will you maintain and improve service for the public?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Laura Nan Cook
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: With 23 years of experience, I have extensive knowledge in Maryland probate policies and procedures. My staff and I frequently answer procedural questions from individuals and attorneys administering estates not only in Queen Anne's County but in neighboring counties as well. We are service-oriented and take pride in the skills that allow us to quickly identify the needs of the public we serve.

PRIORITIES: Educate the public on the services we offer and guide them to outside resources when their needs fall outside of our jurisdiction. Determine how to streamline public access to those resources and provide them with informational literature to assist them. Continue to work closely with Maryland State Archives to ensure preservation of and access to our historically valuable records.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: I am committed to remaining accessible to the public despite this pandemic. We continue to accept wills for safekeeping and when folks call with

questions after the death of a loved, they will speak to me or a member of my staff. I have a responsibility to serve the public and whether it be in person, over the phone or through electronic means, I will not abandon them in their time of need.

Queen Anne's County Judge of the Orphans' Court

DUTIES: Judges of the Orphans' Court supervise the administration of estates. The Orphan's Court shares jurisdiction with the Circuit Court over guardianships of minors. Orphan's Court Judges conduct hearings that involve probate and guardianship disputes, review and act upon administration accounts, and request payments from estates or guardianships.

TERM: Four years with no term limits.

HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide.

SALARY: \$10,000

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 for up to 3

Kimberly Jean Cascia
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: I've been privileged to serve the citizens of QAC as Judge since 2010, after 20+ yrs. experience in estate, trust & retirement service; my goal has been for equal, fair & proper administration of the law. I'll continue to draw on my experience as a small business owner, farmer, mother of two; one with special needs, to apply common sense & compassion to the cases that come before me. I thank you.

PRIORITIES: Caring, practical and respectful of the law: That's the commitment I make to the citizens of QAC. I promise, if re-elected to continue to be a good listener, carefully examine all the evidence & review the facts before making my final decisions based on the law. I will remain fair & impartial, uphold the integrity & independence of the judiciary & refrain from political activity.

COURT SYSTEM: In QAC we are able to schedule probate hearings as soon as needed. Often the testimony heard in our court is heart wrenching from families dealing with grief. I feel I am uniquely qualified to continue serving as your Chief Judge of the Orphans' Court because of my 12 years' experience & the expertise that is required and necessary to best serve the citizens of Queen Anne's County.

MOTIVATION: In 2010, I was flattered and humbled by my friend and mentor, Chief Judge Joe DiPietro urging me to run for Orphans' Court to fill the vacancy created by

Judge Morris retiring. My previous experience with estate & trusts coupled with my desire to continue to serve my community has been most rewarding. I humbly ask for your consideration and vote for re-election to the Orphans' Court.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: My job as judge is to see that the decedent's wishes are met, to administer the law, and not legislate from the bench. I am and will remain fair & impartial, compassionate and respectful of the law.

Thomas M. Walsh
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: The responsibilities of an Orphans Court Judge require knowledge and experience. Having been a sitting judge for several years now I have had the opportunity to gain experience in many facets of probate law. I have also had the opportunity to receive education at the Judicial College of Maryland. Citizens deserve to have their Orphans Court issues heard by well trained and experienced judges.

PRIORITIES: My highest priorities are fairness and impartiality. It is imperative that a judge be an excellent listener. It is also important as a judge that I create a situation that allows all sides of a story to be told and understood by all parties. I also want to create an efficient system so issues are resolved quickly and fairly and do not add further legal financial costs to the parties involved.

COURT SYSTEM: As an Orphans Court judge we have many challenges but I feel that the biggest is helping people understand the probate process and how to help families navigate that system with the least cost and inconvenience. Minimizing legal expenses and

potential taxes is also challenging when parties are not aware of probate laws. Listening & clear explanation goes a long way to help meet this challenge.

MOTIVATION: As a physician I have had a career of helping families in difficult times. As an Orphans Court judge I can continue that mission of listening, and helping. Having a family member pass away is bad enough but to have to resolve their estate issues without help of a fair and impartial judge is unthinkable. The chance to help families during this very rough time has been my main inspiration.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: My judicial philosophy centers around following the law, fairness, and impartiality. I also strongly believe that to the extent that the law allows we should help families minimize the costs involved when settling a loved ones estate. Creating efficiencies that keep legal costs down is essential. Understanding tax implications of decisions related to the estate is an important part of this.

Eric Wargotz
Republican

Campaign Website: www.wargotz.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I am in my 2nd term of service to you as Judge. Caring for individuals & families in times of need requires patience, understanding, compassion, and knowledge of the law. I have exercised these in my deliberations and care for over 25 years as a physician, 4 years as your elected Commission President (2006-10) and now as your Judge. I am honored by your continued support and ask you for your vote.

PRIORITIES: As with all judges, an Orphans' Court judge must examine all the facts and

render a decision based on being fair and impartial. I will continue to serve in this manner. We must always remain aware of the decedents wishes and carry them out in accordance with the law. This must be the top priority as this is our stated role. In addition, I will continue to be vigilant in working to keep costs low.

COURT SYSTEM: We must continue to work efficiently and keep costs low. Services must remain readily accessible and affordable. I have worked hard to see that cases do not get bogged down and drawn out and I will continue to do so. We must be fair and impartial in our decisions and ensure as best we can, that all parties feel they have been treated fairly. The Orphans' Court in QAC functions very well at present.

MOTIVATION: As a physician who has also dealt with end of life issues, I feel that combination has been helpful to the Orphans' Court while serving as a judge. Patience, compassion, and understanding are essential traits and ones I am proud to possess. As a fiscal conservative, I work very hard to keep costs down. This is essential, particularly as laws become more complex and nuanced.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: Orphans' Courts of MD exercise limited jurisdiction. As a Court and as a judge of this court, I am responsible for conducting judicial probate, directing the conduct of personal representatives (executor), & passing orders necessary for the administration of a decedent's estate whether a will exists or not (intestate.) No specific judicial philosophy applies in such a court. Be fair, apply the law.

John W. Crook
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I possess skills that are not only desirable, but necessary to be an effective judge. I approach problems by listening to different points of view and making an informed decision. I also don't believe in inserting my own bias into otherwise unbiased proceedings.

PRIORITIES: My priority is getting to work and being an effective and responsive judge. I understand there is some expectation that political candidates be political in nature, but I don't believe in doing that. As a judge on the Orphans' Court, it would be job to be apolitical, rather than partisan.

COURT SYSTEM: Maryland's courts are being politicized. We need to fix this by electing judges who won't be political. As your judge, I would work tirelessly to remove politics from the Orphans' Court in Queen Anne's County.

MOTIVATION: Running for office was not something I'd ever imagine myself doing, especially at 18. However, I felt compelled to run after seeing how partisan and divisive local politics has become in Queen Anne's County. I believe we need to return to normalcy in Queen Anne's County and start electing candidates who will actually serve our community.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: My judicial philosophy is one of equity, understanding, and compassion. As a judge, I would make decisions based on the law, rather than some kind of partisan playbook.

Ryan E. Holdgreve
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: As a student at the University of Maryland: College Park, I am currently working diligently in studies pertaining to law and local government. I believe that these studies, along with a history of giving back to my community through organizations such as Boy Scouts and the Centreville Park's Board, have prepared me to be a community-oriented and thoughtful candidate for this judgeship.

PRIORITIES: I believe that as an elected official, my highest priority should be directly communicating and interacting with the community I serve. Ensuring that folks in small-town America know what is going on in their local government is a priority for me. I will ensure that I will be a judge for all of Queen Anne's County, and not serve along partisan lines that divide us now more than ever.

COURT SYSTEM: Courts in Maryland and across our nation are under threat from excessive political polarization that has already plagued many other elected offices. We must ensure that we shift our focus from party politics to practicing our judicial procedures without the input from PAC money and big party donors on both sides of the aisle. Judicial proceedings are not the place for political party input.

MOTIVATION: As a life-long resident of Queen Anne's County, I have watched in dismay as many young people write off local political races and politics. When the reality is that these races are the most important and the ones that affect our lives directly. I'm running as an example to young people that local politics is not just for a select few, but rather for all of us no matter the age, across the QAC.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: I aim to be an impartial and neutral judge. Taking the time to understand the complexity of each and every case and its effects on the members of our community is of utmost importance to me. As your judge, I aim to listen to all points of view while leaving my biases on the sidelines, ensuring that our courts work for the people, not for political gain.

Crystal Woodward
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: As an advocacy director for the American Diabetes Association for the past 23 years, I have led ADA's national efforts to prevent discrimination against people with diabetes. Prior to ADA, I was a paralegal practicing probate, litigation, and real estate law. Fairness, integrity, compassion, and thoughtful analysis of law to the facts of each matter before the Court will be my approach.

PRIORITIES: My priorities for this office are to utilize a fair and thorough application of the law to each case and to keep the docket moving forward. In addition, I will apply a problem-solving approach by gaining a clear understanding of positions of the parties in disputed claims and by maintaining accessibility to laws, policies, and resources that might be helpful in achieving resolution.

COURT SYSTEM: The greatest challenge facing Maryland's court system is the docket backlog in most jurisdictions and venues. Backlog might be addressed, in part, by utilizing web-based technology and adopting many of the practices and protocols for remote hearings and conferences put in place during the pandemic. Easily accessible

educational resources for the public may help to streamline and expedite cases.

MOTIVATION: This judgeship will enable me to use my paralegal background, analytical and communication skills to guide parties through the probate process in a manner that is thoughtful, fair, and expeditious. This is an opportunity to give back to our community through collaboration with community partners to raise awareness about the importance of having a will and making probate resources accessible to all.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: I will approach each matter from a neutral perspective and apply relevant laws and court rules, with consideration of current best practices and societal norms. Taking time to listen and understand each party's claims in contested matters as if it was the first time hearing an issue is critical and applying common sense, knowledge, and reasonableness.

Queen Anne's County Sheriff

ABOUT THE OFFICE: The Sheriff's Office is a full-service police agency consisting of deputies who are certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission. The deputies perform various patrol functions, criminal investigations, and community policing assignments. The Sheriff's Office also is responsible for security of the Circuit Court and for serving several thousand court documents annually.

TERM: Four years with no term limits

SALARY: \$161,333

QUESTIONS

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY: How would you involve residents in improving public safety?

DISCRIMINATION: What policies would you pursue to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for everyone interacting with law enforcement?

TRANSPARENCY: How will your office provide transparency in determining whether to arrest people suspected of criminal activity?

schools, increase trainings to civilians in Critical Incidents. Maintain the high level of deputy involvement with our schools and seniors, maintain crime prevention initiatives. Maintain and enhance homeland security initiatives. Continue to resolve traffic concerns. Promote DARE pgm

OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY: Continuing to provide transparency and dialogue through APPS, Social Media and being available 24/7 to our community encouraging conversations while maintaining forums, meetings and promptly addressing compliments, issues and concerns. We openly solicit input from our community to better serve the needs of this diverse county.

DISCRIMINATION: I have maintained (CALEA) Accreditation, which is a high level of standards that we follow and less than 10 % of police agencies in the nation obtain. There is always the need to maintain a diverse and trained work force. We will continue our transparency on complaints; allow the public to view body worn cameras, to ensure we are accountable. Continue our involvement with all minority communities.

TRANSPARENCY: We hold everyone accountable for criminal activity and treat everyone equally. We have policies and procedures in place to allow our community to view body worn camera devices to maintain transparency. We do not arrest based on whom the person is, everyone is held to the same standards.

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Gary Hofmann
Republican

Campaign Website:
www.yoursheriffonline.com

QUALIFICATIONS: Answer Leadership, Fiscal Responsibility, Accountability, Community Initiatives, Communication with the Community and proactive policing with advanced leadership training, provide a "no tolerance to crime approach" in keeping our community one of the safest counties on the shore. Graduate of the National FBI Academy, Law Enforcement Executive School, and a background in criminal justice & business

PRIORITIES: To maintain an aggressive fight on the opioid epidemic through education, awareness and enforcement. Maintain safe

Queen Anne's County Board of Education

ABOUT THE OFFICE: The board consists of five members (one representative from each of the four commissioner districts and one member at large). The board is responsible for determining the mission and vision for the school system and adopting goals to help achieve that vision. The board shall adopt policies consistent with these goals and shall regularly review such policies and the progress towards attainment of these goals. The board shall also advocate for adequate funding for the school system and shall direct the expenditure of resources to best fulfill the goals.

TERM: Four years with no term limits

SALARY: \$3500/year (Board president \$4,000)

QUESTIONS

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

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: How can the schools prepare students for employment?

SCHOOL SAFETY: How will you address school safety issues?

PARTNERSHIPS: How can the schools partner with businesses and community organizations to improve education?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: How will you involve the community in supporting education, especially with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

Queen Anne's County Board of Education at Large

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Alexis Capes

QUALIFICATIONS: My most valuable experience and the reason I am here is I am a MOM who is tired of sitting back and watching others to afraid to stand up for their children's future. The lack of leadership has been evident during the past two years and I am stepping up to give parents a voice and listen.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: I support investing in trade programs because not every student wants to go to college. I hear too many stories of schools pushing for children to go to college instead of letting them explore all their options. We need to invest in internships in high school that prepare students for the real world after they graduate. Not all knowledge comes from college, but not all skills come from degrees.

SCHOOL SAFETY: School Safety, engage the community, parents, law enforcement (MSP, Sheriffs Dept.) I do NOT support police reform that wants to take 10 million dollars that is allocated to SRO and use it elsewhere. We do not have enough officers as it is and I believe sharing of school resource officers is not good enough. Parents should have access to school safety check logs and we need to be proactive.

PARTNERSHIPS: Local advisory boards can help to establish partnerships between the school and businesses/community to help

build real world experiences. Roles can include guest speakers, job shadowing, student boards, mentorships, internships, and fund raising. These long lasting benefits help build valuable knowledge both in and out of the classroom. The partnership builds life skills and long term goals.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: I do not support CRT, gender diversity studies or oversexualized material being taught in the classroom. We need to focus on literacy and academics, and children need to be taught how to think and not what to think.

Detrimental effects have been seen on our children's emotional well-being due the closing of schools and many children are too far behind. It is unacceptable and we MUST do better.

OTHER PRIORITIES: • Restore Parental Rights and Common Sense • Remove Politics and Indoctrination from the classroom • Open Communication, Transparency and Accountability • Demand Safer Schools • Promote trade programs and educational excellence • No mandatory masking or vaccines

Kent Laing

Campaign Website: laingforboe.com

QUALIFICATIONS: My background includes many years of working with young people while being a Youth Director of 11 years here in Centreville. I have also spent time running summer camp programs at many levels, designing programs and providing leadership. I have spent time in the classroom working with at-risk students. I have also spent time substitute teaching here in QA County.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: 1- We need some curriculum that focuses on some basic

workplace etiquette and customs. Included in that would be basic knowledge on tax paperwork, application processes, and resources. We need to partner with our business to help enforce the idea of careers and not jobs for students regardless of when they enter the workforce.

SCHOOL SAFETY: 1- Continue the string partnership we have with the QA Co Sheriffs Office. They are big key to the safety. 2- Work with our PPWs and DJJ to create programs to assist in prevention and lower recidivism. 3- Work with mental health partners to help root out issues of violence, especially in those with high recidivism.

PARTNERSHIPS: We need to create programs that allow community to come in and work with us without forcing them to develop the way they are going to work with us. Make it easy. We need to make a clear, concise, and easy programs that incentivize our businesses to increase training and internships they can offer.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Inviting various groups to be a part of the plan is the first step. All parties interested in making sure QACPS are safe schools in reference to diversity, equity, and inclusion starts with listening to them. Making sure that different voices are in the room to help share the shared education experience to enhance it for everyone.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Making sure that we are creating a strong, highly educated workforce that is not watered down by the shortages education systems are facing nationwide. Making sure that our schools are striving provide the best mental health resources available.

Queen Anne's County Board of Education District 1

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Shannon Long Bent

Campaign Website: bentforkids.com

QUALIFICATIONS: As a longtime program manager, I approach this position as it has specific qualities of a program. Developing and maintaining a balanced budget. Applying my recruiting and retention skills to aid in the staffing process and using my relationship building skills to engage community members to support the school system and students.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: First ensuring that those students that are planning on going to college have the background, and foundational skills to be successful in college and reach those goals, i.e advance courses as well as dual enrollment. For those intending to join the workforce after graduating, ensuring that partnering with local business to provide internships and life skills will put them on the right path.

SCHOOL SAFETY: I plan to work with the school administrations to revive programs such as Antibullying. Placing an emphasis on the 8 pillars of community that this school system used to instill in students beginning in elementary school is a start. Ensuring all schools have resource officers and administrators are addressing issues promptly and effectively.

PARTNERSHIPS: In these times when it is hard to find folks to work, businesses and

community organizations need to understand that they will need to grow the staff they want, providing staff to aid in the teaching (information sharing) and bringing in students as interns is the best way to grow the staff you need. This partnership will not only benefit schools, but businesses and the community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Work with community members on an initiative for activities to support student career goals such as an event where each auto student will have their own tool box, asking local businesses, community members, family to help sponsor the student. We assign laptops to students, these tool boxes will be assigned while in school then get passed down as students move up and out of the system.

OTHER PRIORITIES: Ensuring that our schools have all the tools they need to be successful; CTE equipment is not outdated, broken, or missing. We are providing emergency resources for student athletes during practice, games, and competitions. We have a stable and budgeted policy for technology equipment to include fixing and replacement of parts and equipment.

Chris Blanton

No response received by print deadline; check
Vote411.org

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 QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

PO Box 341
Centreville, MD 21617

Please contact us at LWVQAC@gmail.com

lwvqac.org/

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Thank You!