



# 2024 General Election

# VOTERS' GUIDE





## About this Voters' Guide

The Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of St. Mary's County.

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government. The League is a nonpartisan organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

This Guide follows a long League tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Guide to assist voters as they prepare for the election.

All candidates were asked to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for a particular office were asked identical questions. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. The League assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

Responses to questions in the President and Vice President race were limited to 750 characters. Responses to all other offices were limited to 500 characters. Any additional text was not included. If a candidate did not respond by the print deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

The interactive online Voters' Guide, [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), will show any updates received after the print deadline and also contains additional election information.



Some candidates provided information about their website or social media sites, which may contain additional biographical and policy information. If provided, those sites are listed following the candidate's name.

The League thanks all candidates who submitted answers to our questions.

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## Voting Information

### General Election Dates

- Voter Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 by 5:00 PM in office or 11:59 PM online
- Early Voting Dates: Thursday, October 24, 2024, to Thursday, October 31, 2024
- Early Voting Hours at all sites: 7 AM to 8 PM Every day including weekends
- General Election Day: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
- Election Day Voting Hours: 7 AM to 8 PM

### Early Voting Centers

- Hollywood Firehouse, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood, MD 20636
- Bay District Firehouse, 46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653
- Mechanicsville Firehouse, 28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

### Drop Box Locations

All drop box locations will be open and operational 24/7 until 8 PM on Election Night.

- Board of Elections Office, 23250 Hollywood Road., Leonardtown, MD 20650
- Hollywood Firehouse, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood, MD 20636
- Great Mills High School, 21130 Great Mills Road, Great Mills, MD 20634
- Bay District Firehouse, 46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653
- Valley Lee Firehouse, 45245 Drayden Road, Valley Lee, MD 20692
- Mechanicsville Firehouse, 28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659
- Spring Ridge Middle School, 19856 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653

### Local Board of Elections Contact Information

Street Address: 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 197, Leonardtown, MD 20650-0197

301-475-4200 ext 1625

<https://www.stmarysmd.com/supervisorofelections/>

## Voter Registration

To register to vote, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- A Maryland resident; and
- At least 16 years old.\*

You cannot have been:

- Convicted of buying or selling votes;
- Under guardianship for mental disability and found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote; or
- Currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for a felony conviction.

\*You may register to vote if you are at least 16 years old. You can vote in a primary election as long as you will be 18 years old by the next general election. You must be 18 years old to vote in a general election.

You can submit a voter registration application at any time. However, your application must be postmarked by the voter registration deadline in order to vote in the next scheduled election.

**The close of voter registration for the 2024 Presidential General Election is Tuesday, October 15, 2024.**

To register to vote, you can complete a Voter Registration Application at the local Board of Elections. The St. Mary's County Board of Elections is located at 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Or you can use Maryland's Online Voter Registration System at: [https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html)

You can also register to vote during early voting or on election day. Go to an early voting center in the county during early voting, (see the list of St. Mary's County Early Voting Centers on the previous page) or go to your assigned election day polling place. To find your polling place, enter your address at [voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch](https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch). Bring a document that proves where you live. To prove where you live, bring your MVA-issued license, ID card, or change of address card, or your paycheck, bank statement, utility bill, or other government document with your name and new address.

You can view your registration status at:

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

## Voting

You can either vote in person during early voting or on election day or by mail-in ballot.

### In person during Early Voting:

Early Voting starts on Thursday, October 24, 2024 and goes through Thursday, October 31, 2024. Each Early Voting Center will be open continuously from 7 am to 8 pm each day. Anyone in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote. There are three Early Voting Centers in St. Mary's County:

- Hollywood Firehouse, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood, MD 20636
- Bay District Firehouse, 46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653
- Mechanicsville Firehouse, 28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

### In person on Election Day:

On election day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, voters should go to their assigned polling place. All election day polling places are open continuously from 7 am until 8 pm. Anyone in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote. Your assigned polling place can be found on your Voter Registration Card or by entering your address at:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch>

### Mail-In Voting

Any registered voter may vote by mail-in ballot. You don't need a reason to vote by mail-in ballot. It's another way to vote if you don't want to or can't go to an early voting center or your polling place.

There are 3 ways to request a mail-in ballot:

1. Request a ballot online.  
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinemailinrequest/InstructionsStep1>
2. Print the Mail In Ballot Request Form and return it to the Board of Elections. The form is available at: <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>
3. Go to the local Board of Elections office to fill out and turn in the form. The St. Mary's County Board of Elections is located at 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

The **deadline to request a mail-in ballot** for the 2024 General Election is:

- If you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax, your request must be received (not just mailed) by **Tuesday, October 29, 2024**.
- If you want to receive your ballot via the internet,\* your request must be received by 5 pm, Friday, November 1, 2024 for a request sent in the mail, or by 11:59 pm, Friday, November 1, 2024 for a request sent by fax or [submitted online](#).

**You must mail or hand deliver your voted ballot. You cannot submit your voted ballot online, by email or fax.**

Use the envelope provided with your ballot. You can:

- Mail your ballot. The Maryland State Board of Elections recommends that you mail your ballot as soon as you have voted it. It must be postmarked on or before election day (November 5, 2024). Your voted ballot must be received by your [local board of elections](#) by 10 am on November 15, 2024.
- Take your ballot to a ballot drop box. All drop box locations will be open and operational 24/7 until 8 PM on Election Night.
  - Board of Elections Office, 23250 Hollywood Road., Leonardtown, MD 20650
  - Hollywood Firehouse, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood, MD 20636
  - Great Mills High School, 21130 Great Mills Road, Great Mills, MD 20634
  - Bay District Firehouse, 46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653
  - Valley Lee Firehouse, 45245 Drayden Road, Valley Lee, MD 20692
  - Mechanicsville Firehouse, 28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659
  - Spring Ridge Middle School, 19856 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653
- Hand deliver your ballot. You may deliver it to the St. Mary's County Board of Elections office (see address above) before 8 PM on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Reference Websites

Maryland State Board of Elections: <https://www.elections.maryland.gov/>

St. Mary's County Board of Elections: Phone: (301) 475-4200 Ext. 1625  
<https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/supervisorofelections/>

Information on voter registration:  
[https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html)

Check your voter registration status:  
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

Update your voter registration:  
[https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html)

Find your polling place: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch>

Information on Mail-In Voting: <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>

Access for voters with disabilities: <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/accessibility.html>

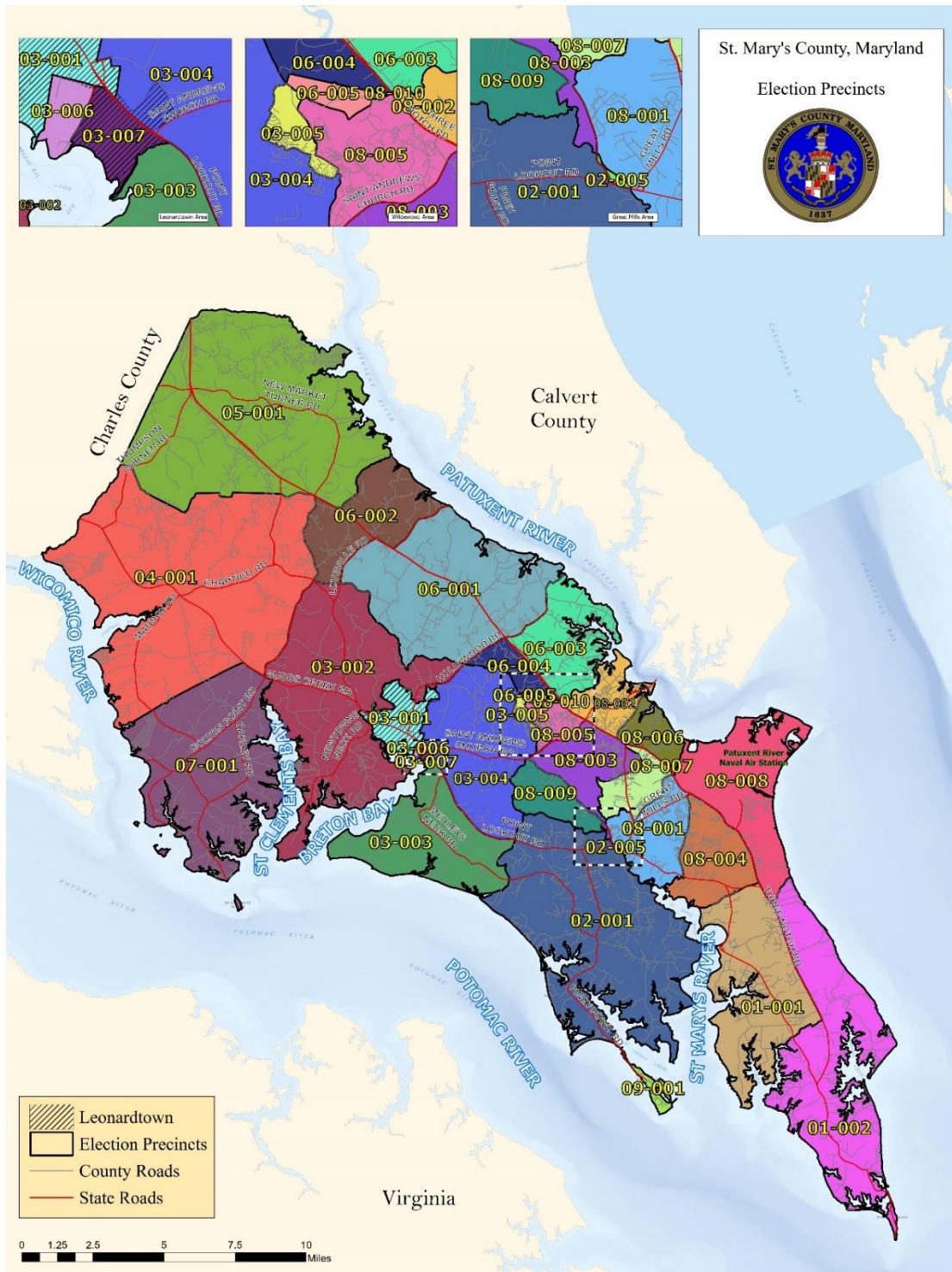
Rules and Information for Voters:  
[https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/election\\_day\\_questions.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/election_day_questions.html)

Rumor Control: [https://elections.maryland.gov/press\\_room/rumor\\_control.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/press_room/rumor_control.html)

Information on offices and candidates in this Voters' Guide is available online at:  
<https://www.VOTE411.org/>

- Enter your address to view individualized voter information; that is, only candidates and questions that will appear on your ballot will be listed.

# Election Precinct Map



## Regarding Candidate Responses

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. All candidate responses come directly from the candidates and are unedited by LWV.

Responses to questions in the President and Vice President race were limited to 750 characters. Responses to all other offices were limited to 500 characters.

“No response received by deadline” is entered where the candidate had not responded to the question prior to the print deadline. Check <https://www.VOTE411.org/> for later responses.

**Offices and Candidates are listed in Ballot Order. These abbreviations are used.**

DEM = Democratic Party

REP = Republican Party

Lib = Libertarian Party

Grn = Green Party

Con = Constitution Party

Wor = Working Party

Una = Unaffiliated Candidate

## President and Vice President of the United States

**DUTIES:** The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

**TERM:** Four years. Limit of two terms.

**BASE SALARY:** \$400,000 per year.

**Criteria for Participation in [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org):** All presidential candidates who will appear on the ballot in Maryland are listed below. All qualified presidential candidates were invited by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria during the general election season:

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President;
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Election Commission website by the date of publication;
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

Additional information on presidential candidates is available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

### The Issues

**COST OF LIVING / WAGES:** What steps should be taken to address the high cost of living and depressed wages in America, including for families, people with disabilities, and people that are economically disadvantaged?

**ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:** What steps will you take to ensure all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care, including reproductive care and prescription drug coverage?

**GUN VIOLENCE:** What steps will you take to curb gun violence and build safe and healthy communities for communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence in the United States?

**IMMIGRATION:** What are the most important steps you will take to improve U.S. immigration policies, including creating an accessible path to citizenship?

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** What actions will you take to address the threats facing the United States due to climate change?

## Candidates

*Vote for 1 pair.*

### ***Kamala D. Harris / Tim Walz***

**Democratic**

**Campaign Website:** <https://kamalaharris.com/>

*No response received by deadline.*

### ***Donald J. Trump / JD Vance***

**Republican**

**Campaign Website:** [www.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.donaldjtrump.com)

*No response received by deadline.*

### ***Chase Oliver / Mike ter Maat***

**Libertarian**

**Campaign Website:** <https://votechaseoliver.com/>

*This candidate did not meet the LWVEF criteria above for receiving questions.*

### ***Jill Stein / Rudolph Ware***

**Green**

**Campaign Website:** [www.jillstein2024.com](http://www.jillstein2024.com)

**COST OF LIVING / WAGES:** We need an economy that works for working people, not just the wealthy and powerful. To reverse surging inequality and insecurity, we need an Economic Bill of Rights establishing the rights to a living-wage job, guaranteed livable income, housing, healthcare, childcare, lifelong education, secure retirement, utilities, healthy food and clean water, so that all of us are guaranteed the basic security for a good life that can reach our highest potential.

Healthcare is a human right. We need a universal healthcare system that is equitable, comprehensive, free at point of service, and accessible to every single person in the US.

**ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:** A Jill Stein administration will immediately implement National Improved Medicare for All as a precursor to establishing a UK-style National Healthcare Service which will replace private hospital, private medical practice, and private medical insurance with a publicly-owned, democratically controlled healthcare service that will guarantee healthcare as a human right to everyone in the United States. We will take the pharmaceutical industry into public ownership to provide medicines as a public good. We will also codify Roe v. Wade and advance reproductive rights.

**GUN VIOLENCE:** We need to end the epidemic of gun violence with common-sense gun safety laws.

A Jill Stein administration will ban the sale of assault rifles and establish a buyback program; establish mandatory waiting periods and background checks for firearm purchases; pass red flag laws for individuals who pose a danger to themselves and others; create standardized digital records of gun registrations and sales; close gun show loopholes; require firearm owners to own a high-quality gun safe to store their firearms; require firearm owners to purchase liability insurance of no less than \$1,000,000; and hold adult firearm owners criminally liable for minor children accessing and using firearms in the commission of any crime, accidental injury or death.

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigrants' rights are human rights. It's time to completely overhaul the broken and abusive immigration system, as well as the unjust policies driving people to leave their homes. We need a comprehensive immigration policy and properly funded institutions to ensure a timely, ethical, transparent, and dignified path to citizenship for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. Border policy should move away from detention and enforcement response toward humane and effective asylum processing.

A Jill Stein administration will replace ICE with an Office of Citizenship, Refugees, and Immigration Services under the Department of Labor, grant amnesty to every undocumented person, and implement a path to citizenship with expediency.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** We all have a human right to a livable planet with a stable climate, healthy food, clean air and water, and living soil. We need a real Green New Deal to transition rapidly from an economic system that is destroying our only home to a sustainable society built around human needs and protecting life on Earth.

Our Green New Deal will invest in renewable energy, a publicly-owned nationwide smart energy grid, clean transportation technology, energy efficiency and conservation to generate millions of good-paying jobs, rapidly phase out fossil fuels and achieve 100% clean renewable energy and zero-to-negative carbon emissions by no later than 2035. We need to act now so that our children and future generations can not only survive, but thrive.

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### ***Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. / Nicole Shanahan***

**Unaffiliated**

**Campaign Website:** <https://www.mahanow.org/>

*No response received by deadline.*

*This candidate has suspended his campaign but remains on the ballot in Maryland.*

## Maryland Statewide Offices

### U.S. Senator

**DUTIES:** U.S. Senators make laws along with the members of the U.S. House of Representatives, 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 2024, 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:** [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

### The Issues

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

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** What actions should the United States government take to protect voting rights and ensure the security of elections?

**ENVIRONMENT:** How would you address problems such as climate change and pollution?

**IMMIGRATION:** What changes would you propose in immigration policy?

**FIREARMS:** Please provide your position on national gun safety legislation.

## Candidates

*Vote for 1.*

### **Angela Alsobrooks**

#### **Democratic Party**

**Campaign Twitter:** [facebook.com/teamalsobrooks](https://www.facebook.com/teamalsobrooks)

**Campaign Email:** [info@angelaalsobrooks.com](mailto:info@angelaalsobrooks.com)

**Campaign Facebook:** [www.angelaalsobrooks.com](http://www.angelaalsobrooks.com)

**Campaign Website:** [info@angelaalsobrooks.com](mailto:info@angelaalsobrooks.com)

**Campaign Instagram:** @alsobrooksformd

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am proud to have spent my life in public service, first as an Assistant State's Attorney focused on domestic violence cases, then as State's Attorney, where under my tenure violent crime dropped by 50%, and most recently as Prince George's County Executive. I know Marylanders deserve a Senator who both fights for them and shares their concerns. I am running for Senate to be a voice for families like the ones I grew up with and whom I have worked for throughout my life.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** I will fight to eliminate the filibuster and pass critical legislation like the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and Freedom to Vote Act. I'm proud to be endorsed by Congressman John Sarbanes and End Citizens United // Let America Vote, two leading voices for protecting voting rights, strengthening election laws and taking money out of politics.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Urgent action is needed to address the climate crisis. I will be a vocal advocate for the Green New Deal, as well as for expanding tax credits for clean energy and ensuring that all U.S. Government purchases, from buildings to vehicles, align with emission goals. As County Executive, I issued an Executive Order for Prince George's County, setting ambitious targets to reduce the 2005 emission levels by half before 2030 and net zero by 2045. I believe the U.S. should adopt a similar timeline.

**IMMIGRATION:** I will be a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to mend the broken immigration system, including creating a pathway to citizenship for those already living and working in the United States. I will support initiatives such as the American Dream and Promise Act, aimed at safeguarding the rights and future of DREAMers and TPS recipients. I firmly believe these individuals deserve certainty and security, regardless of who holds the office of the President.

**FIREARMS:** As a mother, I have been deeply affected by the tragic loss of too many children to gun violence and am frustrated by the lack of action from Washington. I am committed to fighting for essential gun safety legislation to protect children and communities from gun violence. I will work to implement universal background checks and red flag laws, close the gun show loophole, ban military-style weapons like AR-15s, and prohibit devices like bump stocks.

## **Larry Hogan**

### **Republican Party**

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

**Campaign Facebook:** [Facebook.com/GovernorLarryHogan](https://Facebook.com/GovernorLarryHogan)

**Campaign Email:** [ricci@larryhogan.com](mailto:ricci@larryhogan.com)

**Campaign Website:** [info@larryhogan.com](mailto:info@larryhogan.com)

**Campaign Instagram:** [instagram.com/govlarryhogan](https://instagram.com/govlarryhogan)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Governor Hogan has a long record of solving hard problems and overcoming broken politics—including working with the state's Democratic legislature to cut taxes, lower health care costs, and make generational investments in universal broadband and workforce development; leading the nation's governors through the worst global pandemic in more than a century; and, as co-chair of No Labels, partnering with the Problem Solvers Caucus to advance a historic federal infrastructure bill.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Free and fair elections are the foundation of American democracy and the most basic promise that those in power can pledge to citizens. Governor Hogan supports state and local efforts to ensure safe and secure elections by combating election interference and intimidation. He also looks forward to continuing to work with the League of Women Voters and other leading civic-minded organizations on initiatives to end partisan gerrymandering and restore fairness in the electoral system.

**ENVIRONMENT:** While Washington was failing to address climate change, Maryland was leading under Governor Hogan—enacting cleaner air standards stronger than 48 other states and far stronger than the Paris Agreement. In addition to supporting strong environmental stewardship and sustainability, he believes it is especially critical to bring both state and federal resources to bear in holding upstream polluters accountable and protecting regional Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals.

**IMMIGRATION:** The humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border underscores the need to fix our broken and badly outdated immigration system. One party alone didn't cause these problems, and one party alone cannot solve them. Governor Hogan will work with any leader willing to set politics aside and work on real solutions—starting with securing the border and addressing the flow of migrants.

**FIREARMS:** Governor Hogan believes it is possible to respect the rights of law-abiding gun owners while making it harder for criminals and the mentally ill to obtain firearms. In addition to red flag legislation, the governor has long called for federal action to institute a federal universal background check system. He also strongly supports providing law enforcement with more tools and resources to protect our communities—including increasing penalties for those who commit a crime with a gun.

## **Mike Scott**

### **Libertarian Party**

**Campaign Twitter:** [x.com/MIKESCOTT1WORD](https://x.com/MIKESCOTT1WORD)

**Campaign Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552963574190](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552963574190)

**Campaign Email:** [MIKESCOTTnewordallcaps@gmail.com](mailto:MIKESCOTTnewordallcaps@gmail.com)

**Campaign Website:** [www.mikescott2024.com/](http://www.mikescott2024.com/)

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a long range planner and strategist. I have almost 30 years of combined federal service in the defense, acquisitions, communications, and ethics communities. I've built and managed multi-billion dollar budgets. I have trained and led people. I received a TOP SECRET clearance in 1994. I've forgotten more about federal service than my opponents will ever know. Most important point-I'm not a politician. I will do the work that needs to be done in Senate.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Election Day should be a 2-3 day event. It should be done in person. Early voting should be left to military and absentee voters. We should move away from voting machines that can be hacked. But, the BIG thing: we need term limits and campaign finance reform. That takes away the impetus to cheat in elections. We need money out of politics and there are ways to do it.

**ENVIRONMENT:** When COVID hit, one of the unintended consequences was the Earth got to BREATHE again. I suggest investment in viable, ATTRACTIVE public transportation. We have too many cars and trucks on the road. The use of Nuclear power (the reactors that re-use, not store waste) would also help. I'd encourage investment in Hemp plastics and construction materials. But, to fix pollution & the environment? PEOPLE have to CARE.

**IMMIGRATION:** The problem with immigration is America's rampant welfare state, and our fractured domestic and foreign policy. We destabilized the middle east (GWOT & Israel policies), destabilized Latin America (Drug War), now we're messing about in Africa (Sudan, Congo) and Europe (Ukraine). In other words, we have a LOT to fix to fix immigration. I'd like an Ellis Island style immigration system to quickly process immigrants. And, eliminate monetary incentives to come to America and NOT work.

**FIREARMS:** I'm unreasonably pro 2A. The Constitution was not meant to give citizen's rights. It was designed to limit government's power to deny rights. They banned fully automatic weapons, in part, because Blacks were protecting our neighborhoods with them. Weapons are not only necessary for self defense, they put a check on government power. With all the corruption and graft in government, I can't IMAGINE what they'd do to us if we disarm. And, both parties want us disarmed.

## **Patrick J. Burke**

### **Write-in**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** *No response received by deadline.*

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** *No response received by deadline.*

**ENVIRONMENT:** *No response received by deadline.*

**IMMIGRATION:** *No response received by deadline.*

**FIREARMS:** *No response received by deadline.*

## U.S. Representative

### Representative in Congress District 5

**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. No term limit.

**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:** [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

## The Issues

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

**ENVIRONMENT:** How would you address problems such as climate change and pollution?

**IMMIGRATION:** What changes would you propose in immigration policy?

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** What actions should the United States government take to protect voting rights and ensure the security of elections?

**FIREARMS:** Please provide your position on national gun safety legislation.

## Candidates

*Vote for 1.*

### **Steny Hoyer**

**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Twitter:** [www.facebook.com/hoyerforcongress](https://www.facebook.com/hoyerforcongress)

**Campaign Facebook:** [www.hoyerforcongress.com](http://www.hoyerforcongress.com)

**Campaign Email:** [info@hoyerforcongress.com](mailto:info@hoyerforcongress.com)

**Campaign Website:** [info@hoyerforcongress.com](http://info@hoyerforcongress.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Having served Marylanders in the State Senate and U.S. House, I have a deep understanding of how to deliver results for Maryland families. Whether it's securing the new FBI Headquarters in Maryland or repairing critical infrastructure - I've seen how government can work for people. As Majority Leader I helped enact laws including the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - which lower costs, create jobs, and expand affordable health care for Marylanders.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** As the co-author of the Help America Vote Act - I have been a longtime leader on the issues of securing our elections and ensuring communities have the tools they need to run secure and efficient elections. As Majority Leader, I passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act - a critical bill that will restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act - through the House of Representatives. I will continue working to pass voter protection laws and ensure Americans' voices are heard.

**ENVIRONMENT:** I strongly support environmental standards that keep our land, air, and water clean. I have proudly supported every major environmental bill since I was elected to Congress and have consistently secured federal dollars to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways. As Chair of the Regional Leadership Council, I work closely with the Biden-Harris Administration to implement the Investing in America Agenda including Inflation Reduction Act—the largest climate investment in history.

**IMMIGRATION:** The United States is a nation of immigrants, and I am grateful for their contributions. I strongly believe that everyone should have the opportunity to pursue legal immigration while maintaining a strong and secure border that protects those who have come to America legally. Our current immigration system is broken and I am a strong proponent of Comprehensive Immigration Reform that strengthens border security, protects DREAMers, and provides a legal pathway to citizenship.

**FIREARMS:** I feel passionately that we must address the gun violence epidemic in our communities. As an early and strong supporter of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, I have been a leader in calling for its reinstatement. As Majority Leader during the last Congress, I brought the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to the House Floor, the most comprehensive gun legislation in decades, and worked to ensure its passage. Congress has a duty to put an end to the leading cause of death for children in America.

## ***Michelle Talkington***

### **Republican Party**

**Campaign Facebook:** [facebook.com/votemichelletalkington](https://facebook.com/votemichelletalkington)

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**Campaign Website:** [talkington4congress.com](http://talkington4congress.com)

**Campaign Instagram:** @votemichelletalk

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My small business and non-profit background have given me a unique perspective on working middle class family issues of and budget. As a mother of six children, I understand the need to provide for my large family in a time when inflation and the price of goods is higher than it has been in my lifetime. It is vital that we have men and women in office who truly understand the troubles facing the average citizen who works paycheck to paycheck.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Securing our elections demands ensuring that every single voter is first legally allowed to vote under the constitution and our laws, and secondly that their right to vote is protected and valued. We should address the difficulty that many face in obtaining identification, so that all Americans have a simple way to show they are eligible to vote. Enforcing the existing laws and ensuring those checks and balances currently in place are adhered to is the best place to start.

**ENVIRONMENT:** We are a global example and leader in clean energy policy, so we must return to energy independence, thereby reducing our reliance on other governments around the globe who do not adhere to climate safeguards and cause more damage to the environment as they create a product that we consume. Reinforcing American industrial capacity is crucial to decoupling from adversarial forces in the future. I would support industrial efforts that focus on green technologies in addition to energy independence.

**IMMIGRATION:** We should expand the workforce, including those in the legal system, who process and screen those who wish to become citizens. The "Remain in Mexico" policy should be reinstated while we establish a more robust method to verify the identities of those entering our country and reasons for seeking asylum or a better life. We must have secure borders and ensure that criminals and those who intend harm are kept out and receive severe consequences for entering illegally or under false pretenses.

**FIREARMS:** I believe in the 2nd Amendment and would not put policies in place that negatively affect law abiding citizens. Stiffening current enforcement for offenders is paramount in addressing this issue. We have states attorneys and district attorneys who have let violent offenders contributing to a large part of the crime in the U.S. and Maryland. We should do more to flag, report, and prevent those with mental health illness from obtaining weapons. We should be a nation that punishes the criminals.

## Judicial Offices

### Saint Mary's County Judge of the Circuit Court - Circuit 7

**DUTIES:** Judges preside over trials in the Circuit Court, which is a court that hears major civil cases and serious criminal cases, such as those requiring a jury trial. Circuit Courts may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies. The Seventh Circuit Court serves St. Mary's County.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected countywide. The state is divided into eight Judicial Circuits. When there is a vacancy, a nominating commission reviews the qualifications of applicants for the judgeship and recommends several names to the Governor, who appoints a person from that list to fill the office. Each newly appointed judge must run for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy occurred. Sitting judges must also run for re-election after serving for 15 years. Attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar may also run to challenge a newly appointed or sitting judge. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots.

**TERM:** Fifteen years. No term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

**SALARY:** \$204,433 per year

**WEBSITE:** [www.courts.state.md.us/circuit](http://www.courts.state.md.us/circuit)

### The Issues

**CHALLENGES:** What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's Circuit Courts and how should they be addressed?

**DIVERSION PROGRAMS:** What are your views on diversion programs for behavioral problems and substance abuse?

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:** How would you address the problem of large numbers of minority youth being imprisoned?

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

## Candidates

*Vote for 1.*

### ***Amy Lorenzini***

**Campaign Twitter:** @JudgeAmyL

**Campaign Facebook:** Facebook.com/JudgeAmyLorenzini

**Campaign Email:** [Amy@KeepJudgeAmy.com](mailto:Amy@KeepJudgeAmy.com)

**Campaign Website:** [www.KeepJudgeAmy.com](http://www.KeepJudgeAmy.com)

**Campaign Instagram:** JudgeAmyLorenzini

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a current St. Mary's County Circuit Court Judge, I have spent my legal career preparing for this enormous responsibility. I was appointed by Governor Hogan in 2022, after an intensive vetting process. Before that, I was a lawyer for 20 years, serving as a criminal prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, civil litigator, family law attorney, appellate attorney, and counsel to small businesses. I have tried thousands of jury and non-jury cases. My breadth of experience is an asset to the bench.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:** As a sitting judge, and consistent with the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct, I am unable to specifically respond to this question. I will say that as a Circuit Court Judge it is imperative that you have someone who is well versed on juvenile and criminal law and understands that most cases that come before a Circuit Court Judge are criminal cases. As an attorney, I regularly accepted pro bono appointments to represent juveniles and was Chair of the Juvenile Drug Court Steering Committee.

**DIVERSION PROGRAMS:** A judge should be fair but firm, which includes listening to and evaluating all possible options for punishment, deterrence, and rehabilitation. There are times when the appropriate response to behavioral problems and substance abuse is punishment through incarceration and there are times when an appropriate diversion program meets the needs of the individual and society. The objective to both being to protect public safety and to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice.

**CHALLENGES:** Ensuring the timely administration of justice can be a challenge. There are times when justice delayed can mean justice denied. I will continue to address this concern by being prepared when taking the bench, working hard, being versed in the wide variety of cases that come before the Circuit Court, and using my experience to ensure that cases continue to move through the judicial system as efficiently and fairly as possible.

## Judge, Appellate Court of Maryland At Large

**DUTIES:** Judges of the Appellate Court of Maryland review 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.

**NOTE:** In 2022, voters approved an amendment to the Maryland constitution that changed the name of this court from "Court of Special Appeals" to "Appellate Court of Maryland."

**SALARY:** \$203,633 annual base.

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

**HOW ELECTED:** When there is a vacancy on the Appellate Court, a nominating commission reviews the qualifications of applicants for the judgeship and recommends several names to the Governor, who appoints a person from that list to fill the office, who must then be confirmed by the State Senate. Once appointed, the appellate judge holds the office until the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. At that time, the judge runs for an uncontested election for a ten-year term on their record (yes or no for continuance in office). No one is permitted to file against them. If the incumbent judge is approved, the judge faces another "retention election" every ten years to continue in office. If the incumbent judge is rejected by the voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment.

### The Issues

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** What actions would you support to provide individuals with more access to the judicial system and legal assistance?

**DISCRIMINATION:** How can the courts prevent prejudices based on race, gender, age, or sexuality from affecting the fairness of court proceedings?

**CHALLENGES:** What are the greatest challenges facing Maryland's courts and how should they be addressed?

## Candidates

**Vote YES or NO for Continuance in Office.**

### ***Anne K. Albright***

**Judicial**

**CHALLENGES:** *No response received by deadline.*

**DISCRIMINATION:** *No response received by deadline.*

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** *No response received by deadline.*

### ***Kevin F. Arthur***

**Judicial**

**CHALLENGES:** *No response received by deadline.*

**DISCRIMINATION:** *No response received by deadline.*

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** *No response received by deadline.*

### ***Andrea M. Leahy***

**Judicial**

**CHALLENGES:** *No response received by deadline.*

**DISCRIMINATION:** *No response received by deadline.*

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** *No response received by deadline.*

## Local Nonpartisan Offices

### Saint Mary's County Board of Education At Large

**DUTIES:** The Board's duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the school system, to include fiscal year budgets, curriculum materials, textbooks, personnel appointments, capital improvements, land acquisitions, grant applications, and other policy decisions. The Board selects, appoints, and evaluates the Superintendent of Schools.

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** The Board consists of five voting members; one member from the county at-large; and one member from each of the four commissioner districts. Candidates for this office must live in this district. All members are elected countywide. This is a non-partisan position. During both primary and general elections, any registered voter may vote for a candidate, however, only contested races (more than two candidates) appear on a primary ballot.

## The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How do your skills and experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?

**BUDGET:** What areas within the school budget should be increased or decreased?

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** How can schools better prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** What measures do you support to address issues of school safety and student well-being?

**SERVICE:** What inspires you to serve on the Board of Education?

## Candidates

*Vote for 1.*

### **Brandie M. Edelen**

#### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556080091895](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556080091895)

**Campaign Email:** [bedelen@luckyinlove.info](mailto:bedelen@luckyinlove.info)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am personable. People feel comfortable speaking to me. I feel comfortable in leadership roles and have often volunteered to spearhead various projects. I am a former public-school teacher, which gives me knowledge of the inner workings of public education. I am currently an educator, serving as an Adjunct Professor at CSM, with my primary home base being the Leonardtown Campus. I have a master's degree in Human Services. I am a mother of six. My youngest attends St. Mary's Co. Public Schools.

**PRIORITIES:** My priorities consist of obtaining and retaining quality teachers, fully-staffing schools, better preparing all SMCPs students for life after graduation, and providing safe and secure schools.

**BUDGET:** Honestly, I'm not as informed about the budget as I want to be to be able to answer this question to the best of my ability. Dr. Smith and I will meet to discuss the budget so that I can better answer what areas should be increased/decreased.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** Our children must be equipped with the tools that they'll need to become successful adults; balancing a budget, understanding interest rates, what credit is, how to write a resume, how to apply to college, being educated on student loans, and other common issues that adults face on a daily basis. Incorporating Financial Literacy into the curriculum is "relevant curriculum" that will help ensure that students are better prepared for college or the workplace.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** School safety and student well-being can be addressed in several ways: developing and fostering healthy, positive relationships between students and their teachers and administrators; providing adequate access to counselors so that they can be readily available; full-time presence of SRO's in each school; teacher presence outside their doors during the changing of classes; and controlling building access are just a few.

**SERVICE:** I am inspired to serve on the Board because I want to offer a unique perspective of having been a public school teacher, as well as a college professor in the Tri-County area. From teaching Special Education to instructing virtually during lockdown, I have seen areas in need of improvement, and I believe they can be improved.

## *Josh Guy*

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Email:** [friendsofjohsguy@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjohsguy@gmail.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I attended St. Mary's County Public Schools from age five to seventeen. I am a proud product of our school system. I was appointed to the St. Mary's Youth Advisory Commission in 2018, where I was chair of the education committee. In college, I was a substitute teacher for SMCPS and learned a lot about the issues we face. I have a passion for working for our community.

**PRIORITIES:** The first is school safety. Parents, students, and teachers are frustrated at the increase in fights, weapons, and threats of violence in our schools. We need to increase our security teams and release incident information quickly to parents and staff. Second, we must provide enhanced support for our teachers. We must have adequate paraeducators, special educators, and teacher aides to help facilitate our classrooms. Third, we need to strengthen our PTAs. PTAs provide parents a voice in schools.

**BUDGET:** I strongly believe we need to focus on security, educational support staff, and our aging infrastructure. The school board is going to face some very serious budget decisions due to the state's Kirwan Blueprint. I'm committed to maintaining an open mind on budgetary issues and will work to ensure that tax dollars are being well spent in our schools.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** Our county is blessed with a fantastic tech center program for high school students. I would like to see an expansion of the tech center's programs and physical space. One of our challenges is the programs at the tech center fill up quickly, leaving some students unable to take courses. I believe we can conquer that challenge by expanding the center and the course offerings.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** It is vital to protect our students and staff from violence. I support increasing our security support staff and providing in depth training on violence prevention. I plan on working hand in hand with our local sheriff's office to build upon our school resource officer program. When an incident occurs, it is vital to get information to parents in a timely manner. It should not take a week for parents to find out about school incidents. Info should be available for parents as soon as possible.

**SERVICE:** I am the only candidate that has been a student in the St. Mary's County Public Schools. I attended Mechanicsville Elementary, Margaret Brent Middle, and Chopticon High. I've seen the problems in our schools firsthand. I've seen great teachers quit because they didn't have the support they need. I've seen students struggle to achieve their full potential. I've seen parents frustrated at the lack of transparency. I'm committed to solving these problems for our students, teachers, and parents.

## ***Tyra Janet Bennett (Write-In)***

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Tyra.Bennett.2024?mibextid=LQQJ4d](https://www.facebook.com/Tyra.Bennett.2024?mibextid=LQQJ4d)

**Campaign Email:** [TyraBennett85@gmail.com](mailto:TyraBennett85@gmail.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a volunteer teacher, I've had the privilege of witnessing the challenges our students face. It has fueled my commitment to making a difference. Problem-solving, active listening, and keen observation are the skills I've sharpened through every interaction. I strive to be the vital bridge that connects parents with schools, ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns addressed. The ability to connect with others is not just a skill. It's a prerequisite to serve on the board.

**PRIORITIES:** I am fiercely committed to preserving and expanding the educational resources that enrich our students' lives. Treasured spaces like the Elms Environmental Center are more than just learning sites; they are sanctuaries that inspire and connect our children with the natural world. I will also ensure that the media and materials available in our schools are age-appropriate. Our children deserve nothing less than a nurturing environment that respects their innocence and fosters their growth.

**BUDGET:** As we prepare students for the future, investing in technology and vocational training programs are essential. These will help equip students with the skills they need for employment, including those who are not pursuing a college degree. Increasing funds for mental health services within schools has importance as well. This would include hiring more counselors, providing mental health training for staff, and implementing programs focused on student well-being.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I believe more schools should offer quality vocational and technical training programs that provide students with practical skills in trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and IT. Partnerships with local businesses can offer apprenticeships, giving students real-world experience. Implementing life skills via courses that teach financial literacy, job interview techniques, resume writing, and entrepreneurship can help students transition smoothly into the workforce.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** I support working closely with local law enforcement and mental health professionals to develop comprehensive safety plans that address potential threats. While ensuring that the students' rights and dignity are respected, controlled access points will be utilized. Promoting a positive, secure environment is key to preventing violence and ensuring that all students feel valued and safe. This includes implementing programs that teach conflict resolution, emotional intelligence, and empathy.

**SERVICE:** I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child has access to an exceptional education (that offers the resources they need, and the opportunities to succeed). I wish for nothing more than to create a brighter future that our children can look forward to. Serving on the Board of Education allows me to advocate for these values, making a tangible impact on the lives of our students and the future of our community.

## Saint Mary's County Board of Education District 2

**DUTIES:** The Board's duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the school system, to include fiscal year budgets, curriculum materials, textbooks, personnel appointments, capital improvements, land acquisitions, grant applications, and other policy decisions. The Board selects, appoints, and evaluates the Superintendent of Schools.

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** The Board consists of five voting members; one member from the county at-large; and one member from each of the four commissioner districts. Candidates for this office must live in this district. All members are elected countywide. This is a non-partisan position. During both primary and general elections, any registered voter may vote for a candidate, however, only contested races (more than two candidates) appear on a primary ballot.

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How do your skills and experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?

**BUDGET:** What areas within the school budget should be increased or decreased?

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** How can schools better prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** What measures do you support to address issues of school safety and student well-being?

**SERVICE:** What inspires you to serve on the Board of Education?

## Candidates

**Vote for 1.**

### **Cathy Allen**

**Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CathyAllen2016/>

**Campaign Email:** [brad-cath@verizon.net](mailto:brad-cath@verizon.net)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a former critical care nurse I'm well versed in making informed, data driven decisions. My experience on the school board has helped me understand what it takes to be an effective member. I have the time, knowledge, and desire to continue to work on behalf of students, parents, staff, and our community to provide a high quality education so that students are prepared for their future, wherever it might lead.

**PRIORITIES:** I will continue to advocate for needed changes to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation. I am proud of the work the Board has done over the years to ensure that our work is available for all to see and that our website delivers reliable, timely information. Our Board has also added many more opportunities for parental involvement which I believe is crucial for student success. I will continue to advocate for those opportunities.

**BUDGET:** The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is very prescriptive as to where funding must be spent. We will need funding from our county commissioners to provide sufficient resources to be able to continue the programs our students and parents have come to expect while also reallocating dollars to areas dictated by the Blueprint. Our per pupil allocation places us in the bottom third of the state for funding but we've been able to provide a world class education at which our students have excelled.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** The Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center has a wide array of programs to prepare students for employment following high school. Students can receive industry certifications through a number of these programs. Available classes include auto and diesel mechanics, criminal justice, culinary arts, hospitality and tourism, electrical, engineering, and many more. Paid apprenticeships provide students with practical experience that has led to many receiving job offers prior to graduation.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** I support continuing the presence of School Resource Officers in our buildings. Monitored security vestibules are in place in all buildings and all visitors must show ID before being admitted. Safety assistants are every school and monitor class changes, entrances, and building perimeters on an ongoing basis. We also have school psychologists, counselors, and social workers to assist students in need. Students do their part by alerting staff to issues of concern. Everyone has a part to play.

**SERVICE:** I was first inspired to serve when my children were in school, believing that every child deserved a quality education to succeed in life. I am inspired to continue my service to use my skills to advocate for the funding necessary to deliver a high quality education that serves all children who attend our public schools. I've worked to improve transparency, accountability, and opportunities. I hope to continue my work for four more years.

## ***Elena Brewer***

### **Nonpartisan**

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[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556587691289&mibextid=LQJ4d](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556587691289&mibextid=LQJ4d)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a mother of 3 children currently in elementary, middle, and high school in SMCPs, so I am "in the schools" through the eyes of my children daily. As an educator myself, I have experience teaching children and teens on both sides of the Atlantic, being that I was born and raised in the USSR, experienced public education during and after the fall of the USSR, and in the United States. I saw what works, what doesn't, what is destructive, and what builds a child/teen into a successful adult.

**PRIORITIES:** My main PRIORITY is to promote EXCELLENCE in education and not indoctrination. Our public schools should in no way become avenues for various special interest groups to promote their political agenda, such as radical gender theory which attacks the children's God-given identity and robs them of their innocence. I intend to promote age-appropriate teaching materials, stop the sexualization of children, and promote learning, and the building of character.

**BUDGET:** The SMCPs BUDGET must prioritize US citizens, and should not fund wish-list programs, virtual school, and other unnecessary programs. As a board member, I will promote equal funding for every student and a budget that respects the taxpayer.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** I am excited that SMCPs is actively preparing students for employment, and I will continue to promote the need for Ag classes, building trades classes, financial literacy, and life skills.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** The SAFETY and WELL-BEING of every student in SMCPs is my top priority. I will support the installment of metal detectors and enforcing rigorous school discipline. Also, limiting access and time spent on electronic devices, but adding recess time and learning via outdoor field trips. All online activity should be limited for educational purposes and students should not have access to social media on school property. The mental health of students is the responsibility of the parent not school.

**SERVICE:** Empowering parents to have a voice in the education process INSPIRES me to run for school board. My goal is to hold both educators and parents accountable in the education process, encourage the positive principles of equality over equity, and promote merit-based learning. The United States has the best education system in the world. Let us preserve the quality of our system and seek to understand what made it great. Our children are our legacy and our letter written to future generations.

## Saint Mary's County Board of Education District 4

**DUTIES:** The Board's duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the school system, to include fiscal year budgets, curriculum materials, textbooks, personnel appointments, capital improvements, land acquisitions, grant applications, and other policy decisions. The Board selects, appoints, and evaluates the Superintendent of Schools.

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** The Board consists of five voting members; one member from the county at-large; and one member from each of the four commissioner districts. Candidates for this office must live in this district. All members are elected countywide. This is a non-partisan position. During both primary and general elections, any registered voter may vote for a candidate, however, only contested races (more than two candidates) appear on a primary ballot.

### The Issues

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How do your skills and experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

**PRIORITIES:** What are your priorities for this office?

**BUDGET:** What areas within the school budget should be increased or decreased?

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** How can schools better prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** What measures do you support to address issues of school safety and student well-being?

**SERVICE:** What inspires you to serve on the Board of Education?

## Candidates

***Vote for 1.***

### ***David C Drys***

**Nonpartisan**

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**Campaign Email:** [David@votefordaviddrys.com](mailto:David@votefordaviddrys.com)

**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556366095217>

**Campaign Website:** [www.votefordaviddrys.com](http://www.votefordaviddrys.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My extensive background as a team builder and program manager uniquely position me for a seat on the Board of Education. My team-building skills ensure effective collaboration among diverse stakeholders, vital for addressing the needs of students and educators. As a program manager, I have demonstrated strategic planning, essential for implementing educational initiatives. Overall, my multifaceted skills and experience make me a well-rounded candidate capable of driving positive change.

**PRIORITIES:** My major priority is to foster transparency, which requires elevating communication among parents, students, and teachers. Implementing regular newsletters, virtual town halls, and dedicated online platforms are great ways for the BOE to create an open dialogue. Prioritizing investments in math, science, and writing reflects a commitment to foundational skills. Ensuring resources for updated materials, specialized training, and extracurricular activities enhance the learning experience.

**BUDGET:** In-depth analysis of the budget is probably what I'm most excited about doing if elected. Unfortunately, I don't yet have a full view of the current budget and there are a lot of unknowns right now as we work to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. With that said, I don't feel I'm in a position to say what should be increased or decreased at this point. I am concerned about the amount of funding and the number of positions allocated to administrative purposes (including the BoE).

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** My own son attended the James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center and had an amazing experience in the 2-year Manufacturing Engineering Technology program. The Forrest Center is an exceptional resource to prepare students for employment in a wide variety of fields, without the time and expense of pursuing a 4-year degree. I recall that this was widely marketed when my children were in middle school, but teachers and counselors should continue to encourage kids to explore their options.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** Communication is key to both safety and well-being. Ensuring that parents understand what is happening in the schools where their children are should be the highest priority. I recognize there are no easy solutions, nor solutions that appease everyone. I'm not interested in making promises I can't keep, but if elected I would start by leveraging the Chief Strategic Officer and the Chief Safety and Security Officer for insight to consider realistic options.

**SERVICE:** Having been educated in public schools and having a mother who dedicated her career to special education instilled in me a deep appreciation for the impact of quality education. Witnessing the challenges and triumphs within the public school system through her experiences has fueled my commitment to ensuring all students receive an inclusive and supportive learning environment. I'm thankful that my own two children were educated in the St. Mary's County Public School System and I can give back.

## **Mary M. Washington**

### **Nonpartisan**

**Campaign Twitter:** @doingmycalling

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**Campaign Email:** [marywash@md.metrocast.net](mailto:marywash@md.metrocast.net)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** 27 years full-time BOE member. Longest serving BOE member in MD. Hired three superintendents. Worked with every CSMC and BOE members since 1996. BOE Chair/Vice Chair. Always visible, approachable, available, accessible and responsive. Kept students in forefront of all decisions. MABE Leadership Graduate. Served on various local/state committees/ boards. College graduate. World traveler. Jail Social worker. Retired Military Spouse. Real estate agent. About 48 years of direct education experience.

**PRIORITIES:** Increase student achievement for a changing, diverse, and global world. World-class school system. Decrease Chronic Absenteeism. Gain and Retain High -Quality workforce. Fund negotiated agreements. Transparent & Timely Communications. Safe Schools.

**BUDGET:** Fully fund Negotiated Agreements. To continue to enhance, maintain, and upgrade technology in the classrooms to achieve personalized and group instruction. To bring access and opportunities for new programs with emerging technologies, skills, and demands. Decrease: Any areas, which after review, are not effective and efficient.

**COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES:** The key is to prepare ALL students to be college and/or career ready whether they think they plan to go to college or not. To be well prepared for any career, further education is required. Currently, the Forrest Center offers 24 career programs. JROTC at high schools. 4 Academies: Global & International Studies, STEM, Visual & Performing Arts and an Academy of Finance. Internships.

**SAFETY and WELL-BEING:** A multi-pronged approach. Education and awareness are priorities. Parent, student, and community support/partnerships. Timely communications. Prevention, Preparedness. Safety and Security officers. Psychologists. Counselors. Social Workers. School Resource Officers. Security vestibules. Guest speakers. Background Checks. Surveillance. Digital-controlled access. Adopt a School. Mentors.

**SERVICE:** The students are the future. Love, Service, Patriotism, and the ability to give back to the community. To work collaboratively, openly, honestly, and transparently with stakeholders. To be a voice in helping students fulfill their potential to be productive and contributing members of a changing, diverse, and global society. It is inspiring to see students graduate and pursue higher education, trade school, military or workforce. To see students excel.

# State Ballot Questions

## Maryland Question 1

### **Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 245 of the 2023 Legislative Session)**

#### **Declaration of Rights-Right to Reproductive Freedom**

Proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution

Declaration of Rights

Article 48

The proposed amendment confirms an individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decision to prevent, continue, or end the individual's pregnancy, and provides the State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

**Current Law:** Maryland law says that the State cannot stop a woman from ending a pregnancy before the fetus can survive outside the womb. A pregnancy also may be ended at any time if needed to protect the woman's life or health, or if the fetus has a serious medical problem. Doctors, nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants can perform abortions. These providers are protected from being sued or charged if they perform an abortion in good faith. Health insurers and Maryland Medicaid must cover the cost of abortion services.

**Proposed Change:** The ballot question would not change existing law as stated above, but would add a new Article 48 in the Maryland Constitution:

*"That every person, as a central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy. The State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means."*

The amendment is designed to protect the entire range of reproductive decisions including birth control, in vitro fertilization, fertility treatments and abortion.

**Origin of the Ballot Question:** This amendment was proposed by the Maryland General Assembly in Senate Bill 798 during the 2023 session. It was prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The Dobbs decision allows states to make their own abortion laws. Neighboring jurisdictions, like West Virginia, have banned abortion, while others, like the District of Columbia, protect the right to abortion.

#### **Arguments FOR the amendment:**

- Nearly 70% of Maryland residents disagree with the *Dobbs* decision, and almost 80% support a constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights in Maryland (*Washington Post* poll, September 2022).
- Because the *Dobbs* decision removed federal constitutional protection for reproductive freedom, a provision in the Maryland Constitution would be the strongest legal protection for

this right in the state. Additionally, changing this constitutional provision would require approval by three-fifths of the Maryland General Assembly and a majority of voters.

- Under this provision, abortions and other reproductive procedures would remain safe and legal in Maryland. In states where abortion is outlawed or restricted, the procedure will still take place but under potentially unsafe or deadly circumstances.

**Arguments AGAINST the amendment:**

- Maryland already allows abortion, so a constitutional amendment is not necessary. If passed, this amendment would restrict future legislators from making new abortion-related laws.
- The proposed amendment goes farther than existing law in that it would permit abortion at any time until birth without limitations.
- This amendment could lead to more abortions and could make Maryland a destination for out-of-state abortions.

**A majority vote FOR Question 1** means the Maryland Constitution would affirm that everyone has the right to reproductive freedom, including the right to an abortion and that the state cannot limit this right unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means. Maryland's existing law regarding the right to an abortion would remain in effect but could be changed by the legislature if the change were consistent with this constitutional amendment.

**A majority vote AGAINST Question 1** means the Constitution would not be changed. Maryland's current law about abortion would remain the same but could be changed by the legislature in the future.