

2022 Gubernatorial Voter Guide

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan,
meaning it does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

The League has a long tradition of publishing the word-for-word responses of candidates to questions important to voters and offers this Voter Guide to assist citizens as they prepare for the election. This printed guide captures candidate responses received by August 29, 2022, and the races that will appear on ballots in Washington County. Learn more about the League at www.lwwwashco.org.

Visit www.Vote411.org for the latest candidate responses, to find your polling place, information on voter registration, new voter and college voter guides, and candidate-submitted pictures.



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Candidates appear in this Guide in the order they will appear on the ballot. Candidates running for a particular office were asked identical questions developed by League volunteers. All candidates were invited to respond. Responses from candidates are printed exactly as submitted. We did not edit for content, spelling, or grammar. All responses were limited to 400 characters. Any additional text was not included. If a candidate did not respond by the print deadline, "Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline." is printed.

Additional information on the candidates including submitted pictures is available at www.VOTE411.org, which has any updates received after the deadline for the print edition. Candidate websites may provide additional biographical and policy information. Campaign websites, email address, and social media handles are included in this Voter Guide as they were supplied by the candidates.

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

Voting Information

Early Voting

Any person that is registered to vote can vote in person during early voting. Any person that is eligible to register to vote can also vote during early voting. NOTE: If you vote during Early Voting, you will not be permitted to cast an ordinary ballot on Election Day - you will be provided a provisional ballot that will be counted only if your mail-in ballot is not received.

Early voting will be held from Thursday, **October 27, 2022** through Thursday, **November 3, 2022**.
Early voting centers will be open from **7 am to 8 pm**.

Washington County Early Voting Centers

Board of Elections offices at 17708 Virginia Ave, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Washington County Free Library, 200 South Potomac St., Hagerstown, MD 21740

By Mail (“Mail-In” or “Absentee” Ballot)

You may request that a ballot be mailed to you or sent via an email link.

Apply online or by printing out an application from the Maryland State Board of Elections website:

⇒ <http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/absentee.html>

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

- **Tuesday, November 1, 2022** if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax; or
- **Friday, November 4, 2022**, if you want to download your ballot from the State's website (you must still print and mail the ballot - you cannot return it by email).

Returning your ballot – You may return a mail-in ballot:

- By mail – which must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received by your local board of elections no later than **10 am on November 18, 2022**.
- In a ballot drop box by **8 pm on Election Day**. Locations of ballot drop boxes are posted on the State Board of Elections website *[insert link or list them if there are only a few in the county]*.
- Hand delivering it to an Early Voting Center during voting hours
- Hand delivering it to your home precinct no later than **8 PM on Election Day**, or
- Hand delivering it your local Board of Elections no later than **8 PM on Election Day**.

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

Election Day Voting

Find your polling place at www.VOTE411.org.

7:00 AM to 8:00 PM* on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

*If you are in line to vote when the polls officially close, **remain in line to vote**.

Maryland State Board of Elections

Maryland State Board of Elections, P.O. Box 6486, Annapolis, MD 21401-0486
Phone: 410-269-284, Toll Free: 800-222- (VOTE) 8683, Maryland Relay Service: 800-735-2258
Hours: 8 - 5 Monday - Friday.

Not sure if you are registered? <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/votersearch>

Want to see the status of your mail-in or provisional ballot? <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/votersearch>

Rumors about the election? http://www.elections.maryland.gov/press_room/rumor_control.html

Statewide Offices

Governor / Lt Governor

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. **SALARY:** Governor \$184,000, Lieutenant Governor \$165,000 as of January 23, 2023. **TERM:** Four years, limit of two consecutive terms. **HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide as a team.

WEBSITE: see [Maryland Manual Online](#)

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

Dan Cox / Gordana Schifanelli (Republican Party)

Campaign website: www.coxforfreedom.com; Facebook: Official.Dan.Cox; Twitter: @dancoxesq; Instagram: @dancoxforgovernor

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.

Educations: 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 Party)

Campaign website: www.WesMoore.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/iamwesmoore; Twitter: @iamwesmoore; Instagram: www.instagram.com/iamwesmoore

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 Party)

Campaign website: davidlashar.com; Facebook: facebook.com/lashar2022; Twitter: @DavidLashar; Instagram: instagram.com/lashar2022

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 Party)

Campaign website: wallaceforgovernor.us; Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nancy-Wallace-108536871968554/; Twitter: @wallace4govmd; Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wallaceforgovernormd/>

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 Party)

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.

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.

SALARY: \$150,000 per year. **TERM:** Four years, no term limit. **HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide. **WEBSITE:** see [Maryland Manual](#)

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

Barry Glassman (Republican Party)

Campaign website: www.barryglassman.com; Facebook: facebook.com/GlassmanforMD; Twitter: @harfordexec; Instagram: @barry_glassman

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 Party)

Campaign website: www.brookelierman.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/BrookeLiermanForMaryland; Twitter: @BrookeELierman; Instagram: @BrookeELierman

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

Attorney General

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

SALARY: \$150,000 per year. **TERM:** Four years, no term limit. **HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide. **WEBSITE:** see [Maryland Manual](#)

Questions

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

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

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

Michael Anthony Peroutka (Republican Party)

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.

Public Health: No response

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 Party)

Campaign website: anthonybrown.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/AnthonyBrown.Maryland; Twitter: @BrownforMD;

Instagram: @BrownforMD

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.

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. **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. **Term:** Six years. **Base Salary:** \$174,000 per year. **Website:** <https://www.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 & economy?

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

Candidates

Chris Chaffee (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Chris Van Hollen (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: www.vanhollen.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/VanHollenForMD; Twitter: @ChrisVanHollen; Instagram: www.instagram.com/vanhollenformd/

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 ones 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.

U.S. Representative District 6

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 **Base 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

Questions

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

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

Neil C. Parrott (Republican Party)

Campaign website: neilparrott.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/parrottforcongress; Twitter: @neilparrott; Instagram: www.instagram.com/parrottforcongress

Qualifications: Now serving my third term as a member of the House of Delegates, I listen to people and have been privileged to regularly help constituents. I was born in Bethesda, grew up in Maryland, became an Eagle Scout, a professional engineer, an MBA, and a small-business owner. As a husband and father of three, I care about people and work for practical, common-sense solutions.

Elections: The US Government should work with the states to make sure that our elections are secure and trustworthy. They should ensure that states maintain their voter files and quickly remove people who have moved or passed away; that states only register people to vote who are US citizens; that states provide signature verification for all votes cast; and that states not allow bundling.

Court System: The US Federal Court system is serving our country well, but original intent should be followed court decisions. The court should be there to enforce the law, not to create the law.

Protection should be provided for US Supreme Court Justices and lower court justices especially when involved with controversial decisions.

Health Care: The Affordable Care Act is anything but affordable. Since passing, health insurance, health care, and prescription drug costs skyrocketed. The quality of care has also degraded; when did you last see a real doctor instead of a PA? Our country can do better by repealing and replacing Obamacare by using free market solutions that will bring costs down and increase quality of care.

Immigration: Existing immigration laws need to be followed. Lack of immigration enforcement and a porous southern border have led to suffering from gangs like MS 13 who terrorize our District, opioid and fentanyl deaths, and increased human trafficking. Sanctuary cities need to be stopped, the border wall needs to be constructed, and companies who take advantage of illegal aliens should be heavily fined.

Environment: The primary world polluter is China. They dump over 96% more plastic into the ocean than the US and contribute the largest percentage of the worlds CO2. Given that, the US should not sacrifice our manufacturing jobs to countries that do not have effective environmental laws. Trade laws should be used as one negotiating tactic to get China and other countries to pollute less.

Gun Safety: Access to firearms is guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. Our country has a violence epidemic. A major cause of the problem is that we no longer adequately treat the mentally ill as we should. Instead, they often live untreated until they commit an act of violence. Jails have been turned into our new insane asylums. Our jails should be for the career criminals who terrorize our communities.

Other Priorities: Freedom is not free and needs to be valued, protected, & preserved. I will work for you so that we maintain and expand our freedoms where freedom is given to us by God and as defined in the Bill of Rights. Ronald Reagan indicated that, "freedom must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation." Now is our turn. I will work for you to defend our constitutional & financial freedoms.

David J. Trone (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: www.davidtrone.com; Facebook: facebook.com/davidjtrone; Twitter: @davidjtrone;
Campaign Email: info@davidtrone.com

Qualifications: From starting a business to serving in Congress, one thing is clear: Compassion, civility, and competence are keys to success. With this vision, we passed legislation to curb substance use, improve mental health access, and invest in the next generation. Above all, constituent service is key. That's why I opened 4 offices, and each year my team and I answer tens of thousands of requests for help.

Elections: We need to reduce the influence of dark money in politics so elected officials represent their constituents. That's why I've never taken a dime from corporations, lobbyists, or PACs. Even more importantly, we must ensure that the right to vote is afforded to every American, regardless of their race, gender, or political party, and that can only be accomplished at the federal level.

Court System: Our criminal justice system at every level is anything but just. We need reforms to end predatory practices like cash bail and mandatory minimums. And we need to ensure that our justice system, including at the federal level, is focused on accountability — while also providing a second chance to those who have served their time and opportunities for growth and rehabilitation while incarcerated.

Health Care: We need to protect and expand coverage, especially for those with pre-existing conditions, close the Medicaid Gap, and build on the progress that was made with the Affordable Care Act. Let's limit out-of-pocket costs for struggling families, control premium increases, and make prescriptions affordable. And we absolutely must require insurance companies to cover mental health services.

Immigration: Provide a path to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the country. DREAMers and those with Temporary Protected Status must be given the shot at the American dream that they deserve. While we must support legal immigration efforts, it's also important that we improve our border control efforts, using technology — not walls — to get the job done.

Environment: We need to continue to make green investments— in clean energy, sustainable building practices, conservation, vehicle electrification, and the good-paying jobs that make all of this a reality. For us in Maryland, climate change should be at the top of mind. The Chesapeake Bay, an important economic, cultural, and environmental landmark, will continue to suffer if we don't take action.

Gun Safety: "Thoughts and prayers" have done nothing to stop gun violence. A common sense, bipartisan bill was finally signed into law, But it doesn't go far enough. We need to ban assault rifles and high-capacity magazines. Require universal background checks for firearm purchases. And keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals, domestic abusers, and those with serious mental health concerns.

Other Priorities: Ending the opioid epidemic and addressing the mental health crisis. Providing a world-class education to every student in every community. Increasing funding for life-saving medical research. Being a voice in Washington for the most vulnerable. Getting things done. Not being distracted by partisan political fights.

Maryland General Assembly

Maryland Senate

DUTIES: State Senators and 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. The Senate also confirms the Governor's appointments of judges and the heads of certain government agencies. **SALARY:** \$50,328 annual base. **TERM:** Four years, no term limit. **HOW ELECTED:** The state is divided into 47 legislative districts, and each district elects one State Senator. **WEBSITE:**

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

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?

State Senator District 1 Candidates

Mike McKay (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Michael Dreisbach (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: www.mikeformaryland.com; Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/mikeforwesternmaryland.com

Campaign Email: info@mikeformaryland.com

Qualifications: I am a lifelong resident of Western Maryland. I have raised a family and created numerous small business that have employed many people. My wife Jan and I own the Savage River Lodge, Cornucopia Cafe, and Little Crossings Pantry. I have been very active in local politics and non profits for decades. I am a professional mediator who has worked hard to bring many organization together.

Economic Inequities: The State needs to make certain that all citizens have the right fair housing, progressive health care, skills training and job opportunities. Many times our disadvantaged citizens are pushed to the side because of personal issues like drug abuse, lack of transportation, lack of child care or job skills.

Public Safety: We need to address the underlying social issues in our society that lead to crime. I am 100% in support of our public safety professionals. There does need to be additional training when it comes to how to deal with unusual circumstances that a public safety person encounters. Our public safety personnel are not social workers and we need to review how we respond to critical situations.

Education: We need to address the basic skills training available in our high school curriculum, ie - drivers education and trade skills, and basic life skills like home economics. We need to address the shortage of teachers and pay teachers a more equitable wage. We also need to address affordable advanced education for all. That could be college, or specialized skills training.

Health: The Opioid crisis needs to top priority. We need to address affordable health care for all, regardless of income. Senior health care issues need to be addressed including dental, hearing and vision care being covered by Medicare. I will put all my effort into addressing ineffective rules and regulations effecting our citizens

Natural Resources: We need to address alternative energy solutions across the State, solar, wind, hydro and electric vehicles. I will work to educate citizens and affect change to protect our environment and the threat of climate change

Local Projects: Affordable housing, public transportation, human trafficking, new and forward thinking agricultural businesses, supporting the backbone of our economy - small businesses, protecting and enhancing our outdoor environment for recreation.

Other Priorities: I believe in every citizen having the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. I support LGBTQ and women's reproductive rights.

State Senator District 2 Candidates

Paul D. Corderman (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Shawn Demetrious Perry (Democratic Party)

Campaign Website: www.ShawnPerry.org; **Campaign Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ShawnPerryforSenate;

Campaign Email: ShawnforStateSenate@gmail.com

Qualifications: My experience as an Army veteran, police commander, substitute teacher, behavioral specialist and elder abuse victim advocate has allowed me to work with many who are not able to speak for themselves. This has provided me the ability to foster relationships from many walks of life, lending a voice for the underserved and sometimes forgotten populations with empathy and compassion.

Economic Inequities: The state should provide strong, enforceable policy to prevent discrimination; provide economic opportunities, such as grants for small businesses in those communities; invest in infrastructure, affordable housing, transportation and access to services; invest in education, making college more affordable; raise minimum wage to a livable wage.

Public Safety: As a retired LEO who worked in a community with a relatively low crime rate, we believed in partnering with our community. NAC's were formed. Intelligence Led Policing, (use of analytics and data helps identify patterns of crime or repeat offenders), coupled with community based policing, allows for the better use of resources to address crime. The Police Reform Act addresses accountability.

Education: The COVID 19 pandemic caused a myriad of problems with our educational system for many, including students, parents and teachers. I support more free opportunities, such as summer learning/enrichment to mitigate learning loss, offering a hybrid of virtual learning to assist those students who have difficulties attending regular class.

Health: In addition to chronic disease in our state, mental health, substance use and obesity are increasing. I support programs that educate and provide resources. These services have to be accessible for those seeking treatment; I support mobile and community clinics to provide such services.

Natural Resources: A recent poll, conducted by Goucher College, shows that a majority of Marylanders believe that climate change is having a significant impact, affecting rising sea level, extreme weather and impacting wildlife. If elected, I will continue working with and supporting others on the recently passed Climate Solutions Now Act.

Local Projects: Our district is growing due to manufacturing and distribution businesses. These types of businesses require an infrastructure system to ensure minimal impact on residents. It is necessary to provide resources to adequately address this. Reliable public transportation is needed, especially for those economically disadvantaged to have access to get to work.

Other Priorities: Protection of voters rights and the safety of our voting systems; protections of the underserved and marginalized communities; building a pathway from prison to community to reduce recidivism; support for mental health, homelessness and substance use treatment; reduction of the racial wealth gap; fully funding schools; safe and reliable public transportation; small business support.

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

TERM: Four years, no term limit. **HOW ELECTED:** Elected districtwide. The state is divided into 47 legislative districts. Each district is represented by three Delegates, for a total of 141 Delegates statewide. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE:** <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

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 1C Candidates

Terry L. Baker (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Carrie R. Hinton (Democratic Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

House of Delegates 2A Candidates

(Vote for 2)

William Valentine (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

William Joseph Wivell (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

House of Delegates 2B Candidates

Brenda J. Thiam (Republican Party)

Campaign website: www.BrendaThiam.com; Facebook: Delegate Brenda J. Thiam PhD; Instagram: delegatethiam

Qualifications: Prior to my political life I was a special educator. I worked closely with other teachers and administrators to plan effectively for students with autism. As a member in the House of Delegates, it's imperative to know how to effectively work with others for the betterment of Maryland. It's important to listen to others who have ideas to share. Be a good listener. Respect goes a long way.

Economic Inequities: The State should have some involvement when addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged people. That involvement may entail providing funding for local districts to develop programs to implement in local communities. These programs could look like resources to teach people how to improve their lives. The State must avoid giving people a fish to eat but teach them how to fish.

Public Safety: We must start with younger generation and teach them how to respect the law and know the consequences for not following the law. Attorneys must also avoid reducing charges to lesser charges when a person commits a crime. Do the crime, do the time. Allowing upstanding citizens to serve on boards regarding policing in the community strengthens public trust between the police and community.

Education: Teachers must have the resources and time to implement curriculum while teaching students. This might require offering after school tutoring and mentoring programs to help students remediate skills lost during the pandemic. As a former special education teacher, I collaborated with other teachers to help students. We met after school and the administrator provided additional pay for teachers.

Health: Heart disease and diabetes are common among Marylanders. We must work to educate people about how these diseases come to be. Hereditary is common but lifestyle changes are as common. Proposing legislation to focus on rural and economically impacted communities is necessary. Food deserts are common in rural communities. We must provide grocery stores for people to shop for healthy foods.

Natural Resources: Maryland has several state parks for people to enjoy and spend time in nature. We need to ensure our parks are clean and maintained for people to visit. Often times parks are littered with trash and debris that can harm wildlife and discourage people from visiting. We need to ensure laws are followed when people litter. Incentivize parks that stand out from others concerning cleanliness.

Local Projects: I've had conversations with seniors regarding how difficult it is to take care of monthly expenses on a limited budget. Many have applied to social services for financial support but were told they make too much money. I will research potential legislation to help our seniors. Poverty is a challenge in my district. I will work with local government to develop programs that address poverty.

Other Priorities: Opioid crisis/programs for people who need help to overcome addictions Students with disabilities

Brooke Grossman (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: www.grossmanforhagerstown.com; Facebook: facebook.com/grossmanforhagerstowndistrict2b

Qualifications: I believe that I have the experience in fiscal management, resource development, program development, and negotiation to represent the best interests of the citizens of District 2B in Annapolis. I have a passion to use these skills to move our community forward. I am committed to making sure that the voices of the residents of District 2B are heard and advocated for in Annapolis.

Economic Inequities: It is incumbent upon legislators to represent the needs of all of the citizens. This includes ensuring access to resources for economically disadvantaged residents to support them as they work toward becoming financially self sufficient. Including the evaluation of the current thresholds to access state benefits and the benefits cliff that impacts working families across Hagerstown.

Public Safety: I support funding to add Community Engagement Officers to our police force. The community feeling engaged with law enforcement is the foundation to reducing crime. I support investment in evidenced based prevention/intervention program to be implemented, to divert non-violent offenders. I support a community oversight board to evaluate interventions and make recommendations for improvement.

Education: I will advocate for additional mental health resources in our schools, the pandemic has taken a toll on our youth. I will advocate for additional support staff in our schools systems to support our educators and students. I will advocate for a more robust training curriculum for our educators to give them the tools the need to effectively teach.

Health: Access to physical, mental health, substance misuse care to vital to the overall health of our community. More than 8% of residents in the City of Hagerstown lack health insurance. I will advocate for expansion of health care navigation programs to get our citizens ensured creating a pathway to care.

Natural Resources: Pollution of our air and waterways is my primary concern. I will advocate more intensive monitoring of companies that produce pollutants harmful to our air and water ways. And propose significant financial penalties for companies found not to be in compliance with regulatory guidelines.

Local Projects: Sustainable Economic Development, we are seeing a number of new businesses make an investment in Hagerstown. It is my priority to ensure that these businesses are still here in 15-20 and thriving. This requires an investment in our residents to prepare them for the employment opportunities offered by this growth. As well as our infrastructure like public transit and affordable housing stock.

Other Priorities: Equitable access to opportunity, equity is about giving people what they need in order to make things fair. I will work to embody this practice in order to serve our most vulnerable neighbors

County Leaders

Washington County Commissioner

Duties: The Board's primary duty is to serve as the executive branch of County government. Each member of the Board has one vote, and a simple majority of the Board is sufficient to take actions subject to the authority vested in the Board under State law. Emergency actions also require a simple majority vote. The Board elects its own officers. The Commissioners meet weekly on Tuesdays and throughout the year with municipalities and unincorporated towns as requested.

Salary: Commissioners are paid \$38,000, and the Board's president makes \$41,000. **Term:** 4 years **How Elected:** Elected on a countywide basis.

Questions

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

Budget: What programs within the county's budget should be increased or decreased?

Development and Land Use: What changes, if any, are needed in the county's land use policies?

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

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

Infrastructure: What are Washington County's infrastructure needs and how would you address them?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 5.

John F. Barr (Republican Party)

Qualifications: As a former County Commissioner 2007-2018, I feel that I'm well aware of the community and county employees' issues currently and long term. Also spending a year as president of the Maryland Association of Counties, I am very familiar and on a first-name basis with many peers and elective officials around the state.

Budget: Public education and public safety need to be well funded with long-range plans for increased revenue over time, in particular ensuring that we have quality school teachers and adequate facilities for proper education and training. Public safety training, sustainability, and the resources for infrastructure equipment and protective devices on a renewal cycle that is respectable and maintainable.

Development and Land Use: We need to continuously look at the urban growth area, water & sewer, and the individual rights of landowners coupled with sustainable growth.

Education: It is paramount that the local elected officials work closely with the elected school board, administration, teachers, and support staff so that our children and grandchildren receive the best quality education with respectable principals, values, and safety. It is absolutely unacceptable to teach CRT and sex education in PreK through 3rd grade.

Employment/Jobs: This county needs to continue with the enterprise zone and encourage more research development engineering in manufacturing based in lieu of the current warehouse boom development.

Infrastructure: This community needs to continue its lobbying at the state and federal levels for enhancements such as widening and upgrades to I-81 and I-70. Enhancements to both interstates are paramount to the physical well-being of Washington County citizens and their safety. We need a continuous dialogue and working agreement with the City of Hagerstown for public potable water for all citizens.

Jeffrey A. Cline (Republican Party)

Qualifications: A 3 term commissioner, one term town council, real estate and a willingness to go out amongst the people and listen.

Budget: All departments should be reviewed for priority needs to include Public Safety and Infrastructure.

Development and Land Use: Land use policy should be reviewed and evaluated every 10 years.

Education: The elected Board of Education is the lead agency for public schools policy and to continue fully funding MOE.

Employment/Jobs: Less regulations and tax incentives to be competitive with other areas.

Infrastructure: Broadband, roads, bridges and water/sewer upgrades should be included in future budgets.

Derek Harvey (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Wayne Keefer (Republican Party)

Campaign website: www.WayneKeefer.com

Qualifications: I hold a Bachelor's Degree and an MBA in Business Administration. I have experience as a college instructor teaching business, economics, and finance. I also have nearly 12 years experience in community banking, primarily in the realm of corporate accounting. I understand budgets, and take the time needed to comprehend the data to make the best decisions for taxpayers.

Budget: Public safety is a critical area of county government needing additional subsidies. As the average age for volunteer fire and ems personnel continues to climb, we should be mindful that it is county's responsibility to ensure adequate coverage for our citizens. Subsidies to developers should also be better watched. It is not the taxpayer's responsibility to fund private enterprises.

Development and Land Use: I believe in property rights, but all too often forgotten about is that neighboring property owners have rights too. Development is important, and helps to grow our local economy by offering jobs. But, we should concentrate on development and redevelopment in our cities/towns, so as not to create donuts in urban areas and encroach upon our beautiful countryside Washington County is known for.

Education: First, we must be open to regular discussions with our elected counterparts on the Board of Education regarding school topics. This does not always happen. I have taken action to improve support for public schools, primarily by leading the charge that savings from school construction projects (totaling millions of dollars in the current term) be better utilized for aging school repair needs.

Employment/Jobs: Local educational opportunities are plentiful, and Washington County should continue to support the growing fields being taught at Hagerstown Community College, USM-Hagerstown, and the Technical High School. Washington County must also not settle on any one industry. Warehouse jobs are important, but we need to grow other industries as well, and not put all our eggs in one basket.

Infrastructure: The restoration of Maryland Highway User Revenue Fees is a critical issue facing local government. State leadership must return these funds which were cut by up to 90%. I-81 widening is also important. We must continue to lobby hard state leadership in seeing the critical transportation and safety issues surrounding this project.

Randall Wagner (Republican Party)

Instagram: [randywagner2534](https://www.instagram.com/randywagner2534)

Qualifications: Business Owner, Served in the United States Coast Guard from 1968-1972. Currently Realtor with in excess of 14 million dollars in sales yearly. Past Boat Dealership owner, 40 West Marine, Past Sales Manager for Mare Inc who owned boat dealerships. Current Washington County Commissioner. Extensive Leadership in these Jobs along with budget experience. Married 3 daughters, 7 Grand Children.

Budget: The Budget should always be conscious of First Responders, Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement, Veterans and Senior Citizens, they are the backbone of our community.

Development and Land Use: Always be aware of adequate preserved land. Currently Washington County has approximately 300,000 acres of land and of that 97,000 acres are preserved. that is a step in the right direction.

Education: Fully fund the Maintenance of Effort under the state guidelines.

Employment/Jobs: Strive to obtain more high technology and manufacturing jobs.

Infrastructure: The aging infrastructure needs to be continually upgraded with an eye on more high speed internet available to more citizens. My goal would be to continue secure funds for road improvement and bridge repairs.

Sterling Sanders (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: www.citizensforsterlingsanders.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/sterlingsandersforwashingtoncounty

Twitter: @ssanders; Instagram: [sterlingsanders](https://www.instagram.com/sterlingsanders)

Qualifications: As I am sure my experience is similar to the other candidates running, it is that I am a constituent that feels a lack of representation from the County Commissioners. Understanding what it feels like to have no true representation gives me the ability to ensure that I do my best to listen to everyone and make decisions based on the input of the majority of the public.

Budget: We need to focus on fully funding public safety and public education. With that said, we must work collectively with the elected and appointed individuals to make certain that there is no wasteful spending on their part as well. Every penny saved is a penny that can be used somewhere else.

Development and Land Use: I would like to see to it that any developer or development company that donated to a candidate for County Commissioner during their campaign cannot bid on development projects.

Education: I will work directly with the Board of Education members to ensure that I understand decisions that they must make before any type of criticism. I will also visit each school in Washington County to see where the needs are. We must fully fund the Board of Education budget to do away with the low-effort label that Maryland has given us.

Employment/Jobs: The county government should be listening to the citizens about businesses that they would like to see coming into Washington County and then scheduling meetings with the CEOs of those businesses. We can be providing different tax incentives depending on the business scale. We also should put a focus back on manufacturing instead of distribution so that our workforce can gain skills and knowledge.

Infrastructure: I believe that a large infrastructure need is the lack of investment in tax-saving renewable energy sources. I will gladly work on researching available grants for that investment and work hard to bring money into Washington County for the benefit of all of us.

Dave Williams (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: electDaveW.com; **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/electDaveWilliams

Qualifications: I have organization, leadership, and problem solving skills developed over a 40 year career as a WCPS educator. I am an experienced meeting facilitator and collaborative participant. As a retired librarian, I bring information-gathering processes to the table. My understanding of BOE issues will allow me to knowledgeably monitor and advocate for the entity receiving 42% of the general fund budget.

Budget: With inflation and the increasing needs of a growing county comes the necessity to increase the county budget, especially in the areas of public safety, education, and the other critical services provided by the county. Every effort to find cost savings that do not sacrifice services must be encouraged. The challenge is to grow responsibly and show a good return on investment to our taxpayers.

Development and Land Use: The current Comprehensive Plan for the County was adopted in 2002 and is in need of revision. I'm told it is now in the process of being updated. Policies need to be in place to preserve our rural, historical heritage while allowing for environmentally friendly smart growth. Policies must address the proliferation of warehouses and must encourage higher paying employment opportunities.

Education: Washington County historically funds the BOE at or near the lowest amount allowable by law. I will advocate for that to change. I will encourage collaboration and meaningful joint meetings between the BOCC and the BOE. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future changes the way the state funds public schools. I will be willing and able to engage with the Blueprint's requirements for county governments.

Employment/Jobs: In addition to appropriate economic incentives and assistance navigating bureaucracy, attracting and retaining good paying jobs requires an educated work force. Proper funding of PreK-12 schools and HCC is essential to build that work force and to demonstrate that the county values education. Quality public schools and post-secondary opportunities are quality-of-life factors businesses consider.

Infrastructure: Infrastructure projects are detailed in the 10 year capital improvement plan. A portion of any budget surplus should be dedicated to these projects. State and Federal funds should continue to be pursued. All elected representatives must continue to work for I-70 and I-81 upgrades. The county must plan NOW for the replacement of schools and the sewer, water, and landfill needs of the next 50 years.

Judicial Offices

Judge of the Circuit Court – Circuit 4

Duties: Judges preside in the Circuit Court, which is a trial court that hears major civil cases and more serious criminal cases, such as those requiring a jury trial. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies. **Salary:** \$184,433 as of July 1, 2022. **Term:** Fifteen years, no term limit. Mandatory retirement age of 70 years. **How Elected:** The state is divided into 8 Judicial Circuits. The General Assembly determines the number of judges in each circuit and county. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office. Each newly appointed Circuit Court judge then must stand for office at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. One or more other qualified members of the bar may also run to fill the vacancy. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots. **Website:** [Maryland Manual](#)

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 1.)

Joseph S. Michael

Campaign website: www.keepjudgejoemichael.com; **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/KeepJudgeJoeMichael

Qualifications: I am a Circuit Court Judge -- which is the best experience for being a Circuit Court Judge. Before that I was a lawyer for 31 years. 29 years of which I was a prosecutor in Washington County while also maintaining a civil practice including civil litigation and general counsel to small businesses. I have tried thousands of cases to verdict of all kinds, including hundreds of jury trials.

Priorities: Fairness and access above all else, because without it, there is "no liberty and justice for all. Listening to everyone's voice, even the quietest. Swift and severe justice for dangerous criminals. Opportunities for redemption through rehabilitation. Diligence and efficiency because justice delayed is justice denied. Transparency to all parties by explaining the "why" to decisions.

Court System: Recovery from the COVID backlog: It takes leadership and a strong work ethic of starting each day early and finishing late. Inherent bias: Heritage, culture, and experience influence each judge's outlook, even subconsciously. The only way to address this is for each judge to look inward, and admit their strengths and weakness, and to then move forward with awareness.

Motivation: "What good can I do for the people of Washington County today?" This is my mantra every single day when I walk out on the bench. 31 years of trial experience as an advocate makes service on the Circuit Court the highest and best place to put my skills to use for the citizens' benefit. I appreciate the opportunity to use those skills for my neighbors every time I don my robe.

Judicial Philosophy: I am a literalist when it comes to the Constitution and the law. Changing the law is a job for legislators, not judges. Since becoming a judge I have learned that we each learn more by listening than talking. There is a time for both, and a judge's job is to make sure that everyone gets a chance to be heard. This is the foundation of justice. Only after listening can one apply the law.

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large

VOTE YES OR NO FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE 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.

Candidates

Terrence M. R. Zic

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Washington County Treasurer

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for revenue collection for Washington County. The primary function of the office is the billing and collection of real estate, corporate and individual personal property taxes. Based on the step and grade within the Washington County government's compensation scale, the Treasurer's current salary is \$90,979.

Questions

QUALIFICATIONS: What are your qualifications for this position?

PRIORITIES: What are your short- and long-term priorities if elected?

Candidates

Robert M. Breeding (Republican Party)

Qualifications: Having extensive experience in upper level management in government agencies I am well prepared and motivated to continue the already efficient operations and mission of the Treasurer's office. After college, my professional education as a senior leader in the Army provided me with extensive experience in personnel & resource management. I have managed budgets of more than 70 million dollars.

Priorities: My short, long and enduring priorities are to ensure the efficient operation of the Treasurer's Office, maintain a positive work environment for all employees, to ensure fair, respectful and equal treatment for all employees of the office. I will seek opportunities to reduce the operating costs of the office first by not enrolling in any county pension or health care plan after being sworn in.

Washington County State's Attorney

Washington County has a full-time State's Attorney, who is elected to the office for a four-year term. The State's Attorney gathers and presents evidence to the Grand Jury for consideration and prosecutes all criminal cases and major motor vehicle cases in the in the Juvenile, District and Circuit Courts on behalf the of the State. There is a Deputy State's Attorney, seven Assistant State's Attorneys and a clerical and investigative staff. The State's Attorney receives an annual salary equal to 90 per cent of the salary of a Judge of the District Court. All salaries and operating expenses are funded by the county.

Questions

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

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

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Gina Cirincione (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Washington County Clerk of the Circuit Court

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is elected in Washington county for a term of four years. The Clerk's duties are set forth in the Annotated Code of Maryland. A staff of deputy clerks may assist in the performance of these duties. The office is funded through the state's general fund as part of the Judiciary Budget. The county provides office space. The Clerk's current salary is \$123,000. The Clerk is an administrative arm of the court, and required to record and process civil, criminal and juvenile proceedings. In Washington County, the Clerk serves as Jury Commissioner. Other duties include the issuance of business and marriage licenses and performing civil marriage ceremonies. The Clerk's Office administers the oath of office for most elected and appointed officials and the Clerk is the custodian of land, chancery, bond, lien and other records.

Questions

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

AREAS OF NEED: What are the areas of greatest need in the Clerk's office and how would you address them?

ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC: How will you improve service by the Clerk's office to the public?

PRIORITIES: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Kevin R. Tucker

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Washington County Register of Wills

Duties: The Register of Wills assists the general public with administrative processes concerning estates of deceased persons. The Register collects Maryland inheritance tax on estates and probate fees; maintains all records of wills and estates of deceased persons; acts as clerk to the Orphans' Court; and safeguards wills of living persons who reside in the county. **Salary:** Salary is based on the size of the county and determined by the Maryland Board of Public Works.

Term: Four years, no term limit. **How elected:** Elected countywide.

Questions

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

AREAS OF NEED: What are the areas of greatest need in the Orphans' Court system and how would you address them?

ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC: How will you improve the service provided by the Register's office to the public?

PRIORITIES/GOALS: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Lacy M. Flook (Republican Party)

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline.

Jason A. Malott (Democratic Party)

Campaign website: www.jasonmalott.com; Facebook: facebook.com/jason.a.malott

Qualifications: I have worked in the office for over 22 years, first as Deputy, then Chief Deputy to the previous Register. I am experienced in all aspects of the position, including managing the staff and I am serving in my 12th year as the elected Register.

Areas of Need: The greatest need is for citizens to understand what options are available to them through the Register of Wills office and the Orphans' Court. The public needs to be more familiar with the services that are provided and how the offices can help citizens in a difficult situation and how they should be prepared.

Assistance to Public: It is my duty to continuously provide professional and caring services to the public in their greatest time of need and sadness. I expect the staff to perform to the very best of their capabilities to provide the customer with an excellent experience. I would also continue to educate the public on the need to have their final estate plans in order and to have an up to date Last Will and Testament.

Priorities/Goals: I pledge to continue to serve all citizens with compassion and understanding and to provide them with the information and documents they will need to properly and legally administer the estate of a loved one. I will continue to work with Register's across the State of Maryland in a uniform and collaborative manner to give the best service possible to our constituents.

Washington 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. **Salary:** \$7,800 plus an expense account of \$500. **Term:** Four years with no term limits. **How elected:** Elected countywide.

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 three.)

Paul D. Banister (Republican Party)

Qualifications: I have nearly four years of experience being a sitting judge on the Washington County Orphans' Court. I had previous dealings with legal matters in my business career.

Priorities: To administer the law as written. To be sensitive to those whose estate matters we hear. To make our rulings unbiased and understood by all parties in the case of a probate dispute.

Court System: We must preserve the Orphans' Court in Washington County. Pro se litigants make up many of the cases the Court hears. I believe they benefit from the structure of the Orphans' Court's three judge panel that hears cases in a less formal setting. Many Orphans' County judges in Maryland are lay judges and not attorneys. A movement is underway to have all probate matters handled by the Circuit Court.

Motivation: Having adopted Hagerstown as my home since the late 1970s, I have a strong desire to contribute to the community.

Judicial Philosophy: As a judge, I interpret the Code of Maryland relying upon a strict reading of the text. I do not legislate from the bench or have an activist philosophy.

Debra A. Breeding (Republican Party)

Qualifications: I graduated from Frostburg State University with a B.S. Degree in Political Science in 1990. I began my 31 years of service to the Maryland Judiciary in the District Court clerk's office before receiving my appointment as a District Court Commissioner. I served in this capacity for 30 years. Every year I attended educational conferences to learn new laws and procedure.

Priorities: My priorities while serving the Maryland Judiciary have always been the fair and equal application of the law for all parties. Everyone appearing in a Maryland Court deserves respect and timely decisions based on what the law requires.

Court System: Maryland Courts face case load challenges due to recent closings and an increase in need for service. I would work against any effort to abolish the Orphan's Court. The absorption of their case load into Circuit Court would add to the delay in settling estates. A further consideration if this were to occur is the added expense to tax payers if the State created a new Circuit Court Judge position.

Motivation: I am a candidate for Judge of Orphans' Court because I want to continue serving the citizens of Maryland post retirement. My time with the Judiciary was very fulfilling and with the expertise developed over decades I will be a fair, precise and dedicated employee of the citizens of Washington County.

Judicial Philosophy: Lady Justice wears a blindfold for a reason-everyone appearing before a Maryland Court deserves respect and a fair application of procedure and law. Citizens seeking resolution through a Court must be confident that Judges are neutral and detached rendering decisions with no bias as the law demands.

Anthony Scott Lowman (Republican Party)

Qualifications: I have over 25 years of experience in public service. I am a retired MD State Police Major and held various roles within the organization. I possess a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and a masters degree in Public Administration. My experience and education make me an ideal candidate for Judge of the Orphans' Court in Washington County.

Priorities: My priorities for this office are to ensure integrity and fairness of the court, completely separate of politics; to hear each argument and to make decisions based upon existing rule/law.

Court System: I firmly believe that one of the greatest challenges facing the entire judicial system is separation of the court from political influence and ideology.

Motivation: I wish to continue in public service to the local community and use my knowledge and experience to fulfill the mission of the Orphans' Court.

Judicial Philosophy: Judicial Restraint - Courts must interpret the law, not legislate new policies and must remain separate from political influence.

Washington County Sheriff

The Sheriff is charged with the protection of all citizens and with enforcing the laws within the county, including those within corporate limits of any towns maintaining their own police force. The Sheriff is responsible for enforcing court orders and serving legal processes and notices issued by the various courts. The Sheriff is also responsible for the supervision and maintenance of the County Detention Center which includes the Day Reporting Center and for transporting prisoners. The Sheriff's Office employs 200 officers and 50 support staff and is organized into three functional divisions: detention, patrol and judicial. Each Division is headed by a director who reports directly to the Sheriff. The Sheriff is elected for a four-year term and paid \$126,630.

Questions

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY: How would you reach out to county residents to improve public safety?

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

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

TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS: How will you address the need for continuing education to maintain fair and effective law enforcement?

OTHER PRIORITIES: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Brian Albert (Republican Party)

Campaign website: www.albert4sheriff.com

Qualifications: I have 28 years of Law Enforcement Experience. I retired as a Captain of MD DNR. I managed a budget of over 12 million dollars and was responsible for over 70 sworn officers. I currently manage the Wash Co 911 Center, with a budget of over 10 mil and 60+ employees. I have the experience needed to manage the WCSO and will bring a new set of eyes to the Department. I am also a USAF Veteran.

Outreach to Community: I want to get back to community policing. Police have walls up currently due the national media coverage of "de-fund the Police". I want to make sure the communities where we serve know the deputies on a first name basis. We can accomplish this by attending community events, such as Town meetings, carnivals, sporting events, etc. The deputies must be engaged with the community.

Discrimination: This is pretty simple to me. Treat everyone the way you want to be treated. Simply said but harder to carry out. Training can help with this issue, but I feel that a lead by example approach is the best way to address this issue. If discrimination does happen this needs to be addressed in a swift manner with disciplinary measures that are in place at the Sheriff's office

Substance Abuse Crisis: This is a national epidemic that law enforcement cannot handle on their own. We need to partner with public and private entities to get help to the ones that need it most. Treatment facilities need to be readily available to anyone that needs help. As Sheriff I will coordinate Federal, State, and local law enforcement to target the upper level dealers and traffickers supplying to our area.

Officer Training: MD has standards and requirements in place for law enforcement training currently. I feel we need to think outside the box and get cutting edge training for the deputies that serve Washington County. During my career I have always searched for new and innovative training that is happening throughout the country. I would not allow cost to prohibit training that is needed for the deputies.

Other Priorities: With the ever changing world of policing we need to protect our deputies and make sure they are supported by leadership and local leaders. Recruitment and Retention are definitely a priority, we need to retain quality personnel to serve our community. Also I want to tear down the silos between departments in the county and work together to serve the citizens. Protect Wash Co way of life.

Junior McLeod (Democratic Party)

Qualifications: My past experience working in the criminal justice system, has prepared me, as well as working in the prison system, Parole & Probation, to take on this challenge, as well as working amongst different law enforcement agencies. I also possess a Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science, which has also equipped me with knowledge to make a good assessment of individuals.

Outreach to Community: My intentions are to conduct community policing on a regular basis with the deputies and getting to know the people, that live in the surrounding 7 municipalities in every way possible. By building a rapport and trust with the citizens in the community.

Discrimination: The policies that I would implement to prevent such behavior, is to have officers do sensitivity training on a regular basis and learn the behavior of different cultures. Knowing, that this type of behavior is unacceptable in a department, that is here to protect and serve all people of different racial background. This is a serious ongoing major issue, that has to be addressed continuously.

Substance Abuse Crisis: My resolution to this growing pandemic is to address the what. The issue is why. The solution is what's causing the problem.

Officer Training: The needs would be based on officers experience and record, while being on the force. Training would be also be based on officers strength and weaknesses.

Other Priorities: My priorities are to serve the people of Washington county. Making sure all human races and ethnicities are treated equally and fairly, without bias or prejudice. Holding all officers accountable for his/her behavior and misrepresentation of the department, while on duty and off duty. As well as making all citizens be held accountable for his or her behavior and actions.

Washington County Board of Education

The Washington County Board of Education maintains a reasonably uniform system of public schools. Working with the Superintendent, the Board determines educational policies of the school system and establishes rules for the education system. The Board is composed of seven members elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Board members earn a salary of \$13,500 and the Board Chair earns a salary of \$14,000. Regular 7 p.m. meetings of the Board are held twice each month. Work sessions are held afternoons at the central office as needed. Several times during the school year, meetings are held in the afternoon at schools throughout the county. All meetings, except executive sessions, are announced in advance and open to the public. Three seats will be open in 2022.

Website: <http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us>

Questions

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

BUDGET PRIORITIES: How would you rank the priorities of education needs, including teacher retention, class size, and school buildings?

STANDARDS AND TESTING: How should the national and state standards be used to ensure a quality education for each child in the county?

COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES: What programs will you support to prepare students for employment, particularly for those not planning to attend college?

SCHOOL SAFETY: How will you address school safety issues such as gangs, bullying, and substance abuse?

PARTNERSHIPS: How will you promote partnerships with businesses and community organizations to improve the educational experience of our students?

PRIORITIES: In addition to the issues you described in the other questions, what are your priorities for this office?

Candidates

Frederick I. Chavis

Campaign Email: thepeopleforfredchavis@gmail.com

Qualifications: I cannot emphasize the impact of community. Coming to Hagerstown, I made it my initiative to get involved in the community. As a former teacher, I have worked with kids as director of a community center, director of summer camps, and coaching. Board of Ed members must be actively involved in our communities to better serve them, feel the pulse of our communities, and ensure equitable policies.

Budget: Teacher retention remains at the top followed by class size and school buildings. We must do all that we can to ensure we are not losing highly effective teachers in our county. That includes fully funding the school board and taking a look at certification requirements. Funding an equitable learning environment in which policies are based on the whole child and all children in mind is a must.

Standards and Testing: National and state standards must be implemented with an equitable lens. It is easy to group children, but do we understand the different factors affecting scores? I believe standards and testing right now are hurting a major portion of our youth due to the lack of resources and equitable understanding.

College Alternatives: I will support programs that emphasize life skills and trades. Not all students will go to college and that is okay. Many of our youth have exceptional skills and trades that will not only impact the communities in which they reside but also ensure their success. Right now, I am pushing for more young people to understand sustainable farming in their communities.

School Safety: Options. Options. Options! Our young people need access to much more than what they see on the regular. It's important to show them and provide them with the resources for better options. It is not enough to say "Do better." We must create that pathway and it begins in education. In a world of so much much negative influence, we can be a light. This will mean more counselors in our schools.

Partnerships: I am community-driven. Our schools, all of our schools, should involve community input and involvement. Maryland leads the way in nonprofit organizations. Our school system should be taking advantage and initiative to include them in the day-to-day operations. Our students are more likely to succeed with people they are familiar with and we will be able to better equip our staff with those groups.

Priorities: I want a school system that prepares our students for a very interdependent world. There is a huge world outside of Washington County. Our students need to be equipped and accepting of what may be different from them. Diversity is beautiful and it is our strength if we allow it. Programs that keep our students here in Washington County to such as teacher programs will greatly benefit our county.

Darrell E. Evans

Candidate did not provide a response by the print deadline

Mike Guessford

Qualifications: Having been on the board of education for the past 7 ½ years has been an ongoing learning experience when it comes to learning the school system, the programs and policies. This time on the board is very valuable as a candidate. Adding my business background, the ability to work as a team, only makes me more valuable to serve our community and students.

Budget: Everything is very important in their own way but if I was to prioritize three plus a few others, I would place them in this order. 1. Student and Staff Safety 2. Getting our students to Grade level learning 3. Getting back to teaching the basics 4. Parent Choice 5. Teacher Retention 6. Class Sizes 7. School Buildings

Standards and Testing: The National and State testing standards should be used as a benchmark for all school systems to achieve their goals. They also should be used as a guideline to meet goals. Not all children are going to fit into the square hole. We have to work and to give them the tools to meet standards but understand that everyone will find a way to succeed at their own learning level and time line.

College Alternatives: I support trade schools programing and anything we can do to provide a career to each student. This country is experiencing a work shortage in the trades. Washington County Public Schools are leaders in the state of Maryland when it comes to the trade industry. Areas I see where we can be more supportive is the Agriculture, Transportation, Nursing and Hospitality fields.

School Safety: School safety is an ongoing concern. Gangs, bullying and substance abuse are a continuous topic for all boards nationwide. I will continue my support for SRO's (School Resource Officers) in all school and even going as far as having two SRO's in some schools. I will advocate for more surveillance cameras in the classrooms. I support education programs to reduce bullying in our schools.

Partnerships: I will support the superintendent with any plan he recommends as long as it fits into our funding mechanisms and it's in line with our community values.

Priorities: My priorities are to continue to listen to parents and what they want for their child when it comes to the education of all students. I will support community values and what is best for Washington County. I will work with my fellow board members to keep wokeness and critical race theory out of our schools. I will support the teaching of US constitution to educate students to this most important

Ethan J. Loewen

Campaign Email: e.loewen25@yahoo.com

Qualifications: As a Financial Advisor, it is part of my responsibilities to work to understand the issues of the day. An important part of that is the changing economy and workforce needs and skills. A perspective that is invaluable when making decisions about curriculum changes. Additionally, I have experience with both the accelerated programs as well as the special needs programs.

Budget: Class size is the top priority. Which is the same issue as teacher retention. We want our best teachers to spend their careers in our schools. The second priority would be the specialists, such as tutors and counselors. The third priority is to continue our excellent accelerated programs and to expand upon them. Additionally, permanent buildings must be built on pace with the population growth.

Standards and Testing: Periodic testing is a vital tool to measure education success. It is very concerning that as of next year, the requirement that students pass state exams to get credit for certain high school classes is removed. That is a lowering of our educational standards that must not be allowed. The quality of our children's lives, is closely tied to the quality of the education that we provide them.

College Alternatives: A college degree is a worthwhile pursuit. However, many jobs do not require a college degree to perform them. Whereas, many of the jobs that have above average incomes, do require technical training. Furthermore, the deficit of technically trained Americans is quite large. We have the ability to provide our students with job ready technical skills upon graduation, and we should offer that option.

School Safety: This is issue #1. Of great concern is the fact that in the school districts in our state that have been dealing with these issues the longest. They have gotten much worse. Counselors are needed. However, their record of success is the same as addiction and counseling services in the community. Which is not encouraging. We need a dramatic rethink of these issues, and I will have those discussions.

Partnerships: We do partner with a number of organizations for field trips and events and many local companies are partners in our technical training programs. We should always be reviewing additional opportunities. However, the history of organizations providing training to staff, or bringing in their curriculum to students, is not always a positive experience. Those partnerships should be used judiciously.

Priorities: I am concerned at the coming curriculum that takes away from teaching reading, writing, math and science. And increases the amount of time spent telling children how to view racial and LGBTQ issues. As an interracial family member, I have no concern about how our students handle those issues. However, the post-Covid learning delays are record setting. We must focus on what effects their futures.

Linda Murray

Campaign Email: FriendsofLindaMurray@gmail.com

Qualifications: I have had various roles in education since 1981: parent volunteer, PTA President, Para-educator in special education and Board of Education member since 2017. I am very committed to my position; have chaired two Board committees and served on all. I also visit schools, attend workshops and state conferences to stay in touch with the needs of our school system.

Budget: There are several budget items that are priorities to maintain a strong school system. Recruiting/retaining quality teachers and staff is very crucial, also replacing our aging schools to address overcrowding and class sizes. More counselors are imperative to the mental health and well-being of our students

Standards and Testing: The state places great emphasis on standardized tests and changes them every few years. Some children are not good test takers so teacher assessment should also be used to identify a child's strengths and where there is need for improvement.

College Alternatives: I am proud of the numerous career completer programs WCPS has at Tech High and other schools and we have one of the best apprenticeship programs in the state. WCPS must continue to modify and grow their programs with the needs of county employers.

School Safety: WCPS currently employs many school resource officers who work with staff to help identify these problems. Any bullying incident should be reported to staff immediately so that it can be thoroughly investigated.

Partnerships: In our apprenticeship program WCPS students learn their vocation firsthand with Washington County employers. We also partner with HCC for the Essence program where students can earn dual credit for certain classes taken at their high school and for our Middle College program where students can earn associates degrees while still in high school.

Priorities: Student attendance is still lacking. I want to see all students back in schools and thriving. We need to continue to help them gain back what they lost during the pandemic. I am committed to advocating for WCPS so that we can continue to be a world class school system.

Anthony Williams

Campaign Email: Williamsbiology2015@gmail.com

Qualifications: I have been in a formal education setting since graduating college in 2002. From a classroom teacher in private juvenile corrections, to middle and high school classrooms in public private schools to be an alternative education teacher and academic dean, and now starting a nonprofit organization that has a full day childcare center, preschool, private school, and homeschool umbrella program.

Budget: Education needs, class size, teacher retention, school buildings

Standards and Testing: Testing helps set benchmarks to learning to help us know students strengths and gauge how well the students are mastering items in the classroom. It helps up identify trends to improve educational outcomes.

College Alternatives: Every high school should have programs that lead to a certified trade. It should be accessible to all students.

School Safety: Working with the school resource officers, administrators, teachers, and students; I will identify concerns for each school and work together with all stakeholders to provide a pathway to safer schools based on each schools individual needs.

Partnerships: This relates to the trade skills and certifications that all high schools should have for their students. Working with the Chamber of Commerce and other community groups, I will work to help increase student internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing days.

Priorities: Individualized learning plans for all students, reducing class sizes, and making all schools true community schools with mental health and other services to support all needs of the students and their families.

State Ballot Questions

Maryland 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.)

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.

Maryland 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)

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.

Maryland 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)

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 (less than \$25,000) 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.

Maryland Question 4 Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 45 of the 2022 Legislative Session)

Cannabis – Legalization of Adult Use and Possession (Adding Article XX, Section 1 to the Maryland Constitution)

⇒ 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?

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.

Maryland 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)

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.

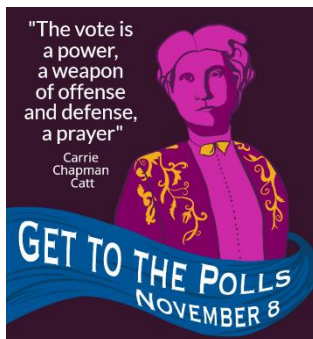
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