



**League of Women Voters® of the Mid-Shore**  
*Serving Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties*

# 2022 Gubernatorial General Election Voters' Guide for Talbot County

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November 8, 2022

**[last updated September 22, 2022]**

## About This *Voters' Guide*

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

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

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

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

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

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at [LWV.org](http://LWV.org) and [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

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



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

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

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

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

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

### ***Three Ways to Vote***

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

### **Vote by Mail-In Ballot**

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

**Request an application for a mail-in Ballot**

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

### **Return your application to your local Board of Elections**

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

### **TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

215 Bay Street  
P.O. Box 353, Easton MD 21601-0353  
410-770-8099, Fax: 410-770-8078  
[www.talbotcountymd.gov/index.php?page=Election\\_Board](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/index.php?page=Election_Board)  
Email Address: [dionne.church@maryland.gov](mailto:dionne.church@maryland.gov)

### **The deadline to return your application varies**

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

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

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



- ➔ your County Board of Elections office,
- ➔ your Early Voting location or your polling place, or
- ➔ deposit it in a County ballot drop-box

### TALBOT COUNTY BALLOT DROP-BOXES

#### 2 Locations:

**EASTON FIRE HOUSE BINGO HALL**, 315  
Aurora Park Dr / 315 Leonard Rieck Dr, Easton  
MD

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**,  
215 Bay St, Easton MD

### BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN 8 PM NOV 8

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

### Vote in Person during Early Voting

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

#### EARLY VOTING LOCATION (1)

You can vote early at:

**EASTON FIRE HOUSE BINGO HALL**, 315  
Aurora Park Dr / 315 Leonard Rieck Dr, Easton  
MD (enter from Creamery Ln)

### Vote in Person on Election Day

**Tuesday, Nov 8, 7 am to 8 pm**

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

### For More Information

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

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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

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

**Check both sides of your ballot for additional races.**

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

office, and posted at all voter centers to verify certified candidates.

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

**Only candidate information available at the time of our publication deadline is included here;** for more up-to-date information on candidate responses, check [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org).



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

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

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

# Maryland Statewide Offices

## Maryland Governor / Lieutenant Governor

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

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

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

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide as a team.

**WEBSITE:**

[msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/08conoff/html/01govf.html](https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/08conoff/html/01govf.html) GOVERNOR

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Dan Cox / Gordana Schifanelli**  
**Republican**

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

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

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** Boost the BOOST education programs for all and allow the money to follow the child under parental direction. Increase opportunity zone loans and grants, with follow-up grants and loans to small business start-ups to ensure stability and strength. Ensure equality for all and access to the market with lower taxes.

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

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

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

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** By preserving farmland and state forests, we can ensure land and



growth areas are open for building to attract business and residents. Maryland has a net-loss of over 250,000 people since 2011. By granting access to our natural resources responsibly, and expanding energy production, we increase opportunity for all while ensuring the conservation and protection of our state lands and waterways.

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

**Wes Moore / Aruna Miller  
Democratic**

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

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

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I believe in policing with maximum accountability and appropriate

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

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

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

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** As governor, I will ensure that we are building 21st-century transportation infrastructure that provides equity both in terms of access and its

construction, environmental protections, and strong input from the communities. A Moore-Miller administration will ensure every step is taken to fully understand and mitigate the environmental impacts while meeting the transportation needs of Marylanders.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** No matter your start in life, you deserve an equal opportunity to succeed – a job you can raise a family on, a future you can look forward to. My top priority is to create opportunities for people to step into better jobs, earn higher wages, and build wealth they can pass down to their children. In the military we learned a mantra, “leave nobody behind” and that’s exactly what I’ll do as governor.

**David Lashar / Christiana Logansmith  
Libertarian**

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

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

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

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

**EDUCATION:** Education as delivered through public-monopoly schools in league with self-interested teacher unions has become a failure, especially for youths in historically disadvantaged communities. We need to give all students, but especially poor students, the same privilege that rich kids enjoy: Choice as to where to go to school. The money must follow the child. As is already done for college education.

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

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** First, I must implore that we quit exaggerating our needs. The Rs and Ds in DC already have splurged on

unnecessary and inflationary spending. Second, I commit to managing that which is coming from DC in a competent manner (unlike the Purple Line) while tending to environmental impact, for example avoiding miles of new concrete; for example promoting innovation for east-west Baltimore transit.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** My priority is to restore civility and hope across Maryland. Which has almost nothing to do with policy positions... but has everything to do with possessing a character and advancing a philosophy devoted to respect for ALL people regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or politics. Which is who I myself am and what libertarianism is, as you can confirm for yourself by following my campaign.

**Nancy Wallace / Patrick Elder  
Green**

**Campaign Website:** wallaceforgovernor.us

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

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** The state government should take the lead in redistributing wealth from the top one percent to those who created it by practical programs increasing home ownership such as all public housing becomes rent to own; free college and forgiveness of all public college student debt; free universal health care including

elderly care that Social Security doesn't cover; and green jobs with training for all.

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

**EDUCATION:** Implement the Kirwan Commission on Education, and transition to Montessori proven technique for higher achievement and emotional healing in early years. Free public college so all students know they have path to good paying jobs. High school academies with apprenticeships for locally needed skills for local community, partnering with unions and local businesses. Air conditioning, heat guaranteed!

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

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

education on minimum mowing, and restoring the Bay.

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Democracy reform with Ranked Choice Voting aka True Majority Voting, citizens right to state wide referendum, remove seniority dominance in state legislature to allow equal powers to all elected representatives, public investment of tax revenues through a state Public Bank like ND, decentralization of power, local economic investment, small business priority. We never take corporate donations.

### David Harding / Cathy White Working Class

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

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** Economically disadvantaged people are the poorer parts of the working class., people who have low-paying or part-time jobs. The bosses have created this situation in their drive for ever more profits. Until all working people organize, whether we are lower paid or higher

paid, we will not be able to overcome this exploitation.

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

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

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** The working class has a potential that many workers don't realize. We do all the work of society, in offices, in manufacturing, in services. We have the

potential to make huge changes because society could not run a single day without our work.

### Kyle Sefcik / Katie Lee Write In

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

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

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** The state needs to support the non-profits, businesses, and churches, as they are the ones who need to aid and care for the economically disadvantaged people. We must serve those in need and help these people find the means to a better life of family, work, and safety.

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

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



failing our children. We need to make big changes..

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

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

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** I want to remind voters, that when it comes to this topic, it's your county, not the state, that has the final say on this. We need to make sure that counties are making smart decisions, like building up where the infrastructure is supported and ready. I will work to improve Maryland's highways to reduce traffic. We can all agree on working together to make sure we have the cleanest environment.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Visit [KyleSefcik.com](http://KyleSefcik.com) for more priorities! @KyleSefcikForGovernor

## Maryland Comptroller

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

**TERM:** Four years. No term limit.

**SALARIES:** \$150,000.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide.

**WEBSITE:**

[msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/08con off/html/03compf.html](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/08con off/html/03compf.html)

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Barry Glassman**

**Republican**

**Campaign Website:**

[www.barryglassman.com](http://www.barryglassman.com)

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

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

**REVENUE SYSTEM:** As Harford County Executive, I have launched over seven digital platforms to improve efficiency, save money and improve customer service. One of my first steps as Comptroller would be a top down evaluation of the Office's digital infrastructure to make sure the State is collecting taxes properly but processing returns and assisting preparers quickly as well.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** Currently, the most pressing issue facing Maryland's families is the spiking inflationary pressures of food, services and goods. Energy prices continue to

strain the budgets of our working families and small businesses. The cost of housing along with this increased cost of living threatens the next generation of Marylanders to live and raise a family here in our State. I have managed a local

**Brooke Elizabeth Lierman**  
**Democratic**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.brookelierman.com](http://www.brookelierman.com)

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

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

**REVENUE SYSTEM:** I will introduce new technology to modernize the process of paying taxes and make receiving refunds more efficient. This will ensure that each taxpayer and corporation pays their fair share and also allow every family & small business to know which tax credits they qualify for, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit. I will also create a Taxpayer Advocate Office to assist taxpayers at every step.

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

## Maryland Attorney General

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

**TERM:** Four years. No term limit.

**SALARY:** \$150,000 .

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected statewide.

**WEBSITE:** [msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmannual/08conoff/attorney/html/06agf.html](https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmannual/08conoff/attorney/html/06agf.html)

## QUESTIONS

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

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:** What steps will you take to improve the

efficiency and fairness of legal processes in Maryland?

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

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

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

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** Describe your approach to consumer protection.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Michael Anthony Peroutka**  
**Republican**

**Campaign Website:** [patriots4peroutka.com](http://patriots4peroutka.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Anthony G. Brown**  
**Democratic**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** With three decades as a lawyer, in federal and state courts, Army JAG officer, and regulatory attorney, representing clients against big tobacco and pro bono clients, and with twenty-two years leading in the legislative

and executive branches of government, I bring the breadth of experience needed to lead and manage the Attorney General's Office, the largest public interest law firm in Maryland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**U.S. Senator**

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

**TERM:** Six years. No term limit.

**SALARY:** \$174,000.

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

**WEBSITE:** senate.gov/

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Chris Chaffee**

No response by our print deadline;  
check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

**Chris Van Hollen**  
**Democratic**

**Campaign Website:** [www.vanhollen.org](http://www.vanhollen.org)

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

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

**COURT SYSTEM:** An independent judiciary made up of diverse voices is a key element of democracy and freedoms. We need to preserve and protect it from those trying to undermine the Constitutional rights it aims to safeguard. I'm working to confirm federal

judges with an unwavering commitment to protecting Americans' rights and freedoms and delivering equal justice under the law.

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

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

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

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



programs, and pass my legislation for stronger oversight enhancing gun safety.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** We must build a stronger, more inclusive economy with more shared prosperity. We can end tax giveaways for the super wealthy and increase paychecks for working families while cutting everyday costs on everything from prescription drugs to child care. Also, it's vital that we protect Americans' freedoms and pass the Women's Health Protection Act to codify the legal right to reproductive choice.

**Scottie Griffin**

Write In

No response received by print deadline; check  
Vote411.org

## Representative in Congress

### Congressional District 1

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

**TERM:** Two years.

**SALARY:** \$174,000.

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

**WEBSITE:** [house.gov](https://house.gov)

### QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

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

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

**COURT SYSTEM:** We need to expand the number of circuit courts in order to decrease the number of backlogged cases in each circuit and allow for more prompt justice.

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

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** We need to control federal spending in order to control runaway inflation and rising costs. We need to restore parental involvement in our public schools and their curriculum. We need to restore our leadership in energy production - all forms of

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Andy Harris**  
**Republican**

**Campaign Website:** [andyharris.com](https://andyharris.com)

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energy including fossil fuels - to bring down the price of gas and diesel. We need to stop all fentanyl at our southern border.

**Heather R. Mizeur**  
**Democratic**

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

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

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

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

**HEALTH CARE:** I will seek to expand who qualifies for coverage, improve the benefits packages, and will work to bring down out-of-pocket costs through better subsidies and

copayment rules. I support allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to reduce Rx prices and will prioritize our rural health care needs by focusing on ways to attract more and better health care providers to our region.

**IMMIGRATION:** I support comprehensive immigration reform that includes both a clear pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and a commitment to border security.

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

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

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

**Daniel Frank Thibeault**

**Libertarian**

No response received by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

## Maryland State Senate

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

**TERM:** Four years. No term limit.

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

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

**WEBSITE:** [msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/gaf.html](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/gaf.html)

## Senator District 37

**HOW ELECTED:** District 37 includes all of Talbot County and parts of Caroline, Dorchester, and Wicomico counties. One Senator is elected by all qualified voters in the areas cited.

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## 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?

the past eight years. The Eastern Shore is my home; our family business of 42 years is here - I am small businessperson; my friends and family are here; I am a parent, and my children attend school here; I am involved with many community organizations; and have worked in the Legislative arena for many years.

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** We are experiencing historic workforce shortages and inflation. Connecting economically disadvantaged people with workforce training and employment opportunities should be a top priority. Government policies should also incentivize citizens to seek employment that will meet their economic needs and hopefully lead to future opportunities.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I strongly support enhanced penalties for repeat violent offenders. I also support full funding for our law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, the recently enacted Police Reform has done little to enhance accountability. I strongly support crisis training and other programs to improve policing and most importantly, I strongly support programs that promote community policing.

**EDUCATION:** Funding estimates for the Blueprint - which I opposed - have fallen far short of expectations. I will fight for education funding for our rural counties. COVID impact specific, I will work to exempt our school systems from the new prohibition on the use of private contractors in providing virtual learning. I will support efforts to improve transparency in education and parental involvement.

**HEALTH:** We have significant accessibility and disparities challenges, and one of the oldest populations in the state. However, the challenges facing our mental health system are overwhelming. I will continue to support

efforts to improve credentialing and to rectify the issues surrounding the reimbursement process for mental health providers. Also, see my response for local projects.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** The Chesapeake Bay affects virtually all aspects of our way of life and the Bay Restoration Fund has proven to be an incredibly beneficial tool. I will work to protect the Bay Restoration Fund and propose changes that will enable more wastewater treatment facilities to become eligible for support from this fund. I will also continue to advocate for the dredging of the Conowingo Dam.

**LOCAL PROJECTS:** From my perspective, the greatest improvement to affect our entire community and our health care system, will be to move forward with the construction of the long awaited, new hospital in Easton. I will support this every way that I can.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** I have been deeply involved in the Broadband deployment effort and this will continue to be a priority; maintaining and improving community relations with law enforcement; ensuring our students are workforce ready after high school; expanding access to the Bay Restoration Fund for wastewater treatment facilities; and ensuring our protection of the Bay's ecology is balanced and sound.

**Naomi Hyman**  
**Democratic**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I've devoted my career to the nonprofit sector, focusing on bettering people's lives. 40+ years of experience in adult education have prepared me to effectively communicate complex concepts. I am a skilled facilitator who brings people together for tough conversations. A 2018

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Johnny Mautz**  
**Republican**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have had the incredible honor of serving in the House of Delegates for

candidate for Talbot County Council, I was endorsed by the Talbot County Education Association.

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** The state has a responsibility to help economically disadvantaged people to improve their circumstances (and become taxpayers). High quality education, expanded transportation options, broadband access, and workforce housing provide a foundation. Living wage laws ensure that full-time jobs pay above the poverty level. Access to capital including microloans get small businesses off the ground.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I believe that we can reduce crime by addressing economic inequality via job training, accessible mental and physical health care, affordable housing, substance abuse treatment as well as re-entry mediation and support as to reduce recidivism. I support fully transparent police accountability boards. I back funding the police with the resources they need to do their jobs safely and well.

**EDUCATION:** I support temporary suspension of most state mandated tests to reduce pandemic related increases in teacher workloads. I'll advocate for an equitable educational recovery that addresses the inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. I'll advocate for more funding for our schools, including career and technical training, and I will support Chesapeake and Wor-Wic Community Colleges.

**HEALTH:** Accessible and affordable healthcare, and especially mental health care, remains a significant challenge. Emergency services are underfunded, and response time can be dangerously slow. I will work to create incentives to attract desperately needed health care professionals to District 37's and to expand access to telemedicine by

expanding broadband coverage and making it affordable to all.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Climate change is already eroding land, creating climate refugees, and threatening vital economic and important historic resources in District 37. I will work to protect those resources, ensure adequate emergency response, and aid displaced families and communities through legislation, advocacy, and coalition building.

**LOCAL PROJECTS:** Limited and expensive broadband has had a negative impact on our economic development, education, healthcare and public safety. I will be a strong voice in directing federal funds for low-cost broadband service expansion to District 37 and I will partner with the newly created Office of Statewide Broadband to being underserved by the current internet infrastructure.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** COVID-19 has taken a toll on mental as well as physical health. Our fraught political discourse, social media, and economic insecurity have also contributed to a decline in mental health, particularly for children and adolescents. I will work hard to destigmatize mental illness, support suicide prevention measures, and ensure that our children can access care when, how and where they need it.

## Maryland House of Delegates

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

General Assembly may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters.

**TERM:** Four years. No term limit.

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

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected district-wide. The state is divided into 47 legislative districts. Each district is represented by three Delegates, for a total of 141 Delegates statewide.

**WEBSITE:** [msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/gaf.html](https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/gaf.html)

## House of Delegates 37B

**HOW ELECTED:** District 37B includes all of Talbot County and parts of Caroline, Dorchester, and Wicomico Counties. Qualified voters in District 37B cast votes for 2 candidates. The 2 candidates who receive the largest number of votes are elected EXCEPT that each person elected must live in a different county.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

**EDUCATION:** What actions will you take to improve education in Maryland,

especially given the impact of the COVID pandemic?

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

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

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

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** What other issues are priorities for you?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 2

**Christopher T. Adams**  
**Republican**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a two term incumbent to the House of Delegates with the the most experience in public service of any candidate in this District. As a business owner with 30 employees, I am directly involved as a conservative leader in policy making that impacts job creators on Economic Matters Committee. My voting record reflects prior election promises with a 94% rating by the American Conservative Union.

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** The pandemic created significant disruptions to those seeking employment. Our State leads in assisting citizens with apprenticeship and skills training. We must continue to focus and expand policies that modernize our workforce. Maryland is one of the highest taxed States in

the nation. Tax policy must encourage citizens to thrive in Maryland if we are to afford relief to the the least among us.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Our country is built upon the rule of law designed to promote a free and civil society. Trust in our police officers does matter. We all have a genuine desire to hold police accountable for their actions. But if trust in law enforcement is to be the goal then anti police bias in policy making with not lead to equitable results. We must reject efforts that deter good people of this State to serve.

**EDUCATION:** The State must return control of education decisions to local school boards. They are closest to the parents, students, and teachers. Accountability and transparency can only exist locally where trust in education must be reestablished.

In addition we need to acknowledge the behavioral and social harm remote learning has caused. There is no substitute for in person education by teachers who care.

**HEALTH:** Access to care remains a top constituent complaint received by my office. Rural heath providers concerns with funding in an all payer system must be acknowledged and commitment to fully fund rural heath providers can only solve these issues.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Maryland, in its 12,000 square miles, does not live in a bubble. It is appalling to watch our legislature act out in isolation as if it will have any measurable impact on the global climate. Current policy making adopts much of the failure of progressive California. Rolling blackouts and brownouts will be Maryland's normal if we do not stay focused on delivering modern reliable energy.

**LOCAL PROJECTS:** The legislature continues to take action without due consideration from Agriculture and our Waterman. Nearly all economic development on the Eastern Shore

is attributable to Maryland Agriculture and seafood production. This is a basic concept that must continually be reinforced with legislators from Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City. Our future success depends on it.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** I serve on Business Regulation, Banking Consumer Protection and Commercial Law, and Unemployment Insurance Subcommittees. As one of few business owners in Annapolis I serve as the voice for job creators and their employees. It will be my focus to help our committee make good policy decisions that encourage healthy economic development and at the same time good working conditions for all.

**Tom Hutchinson**  
**Republican**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a business leader and not a politician. I bring a well-rounded set of skills and experience as a previous healthcare business executive, a current small business owner, and a very active community leader. I look forward to bringing this vast experience to Annapolis to make common sense decisions and to support fiscal policies that have a return on our tax dollar investments.

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** The State is obligated to insure that all citizens have access to quality public education, community college, and/or trade schools. We need to provide guidance and support to create a first class workforce and to assist those in need to become employable and the ability to earn an income and not dependent solely upon the



State. We also need to provide support for programs for home ownership.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** I agree police need to be held accountable but not to the extreme the police accountability act has taken. We need to start holding criminals accountable for their behavior. We need to refund the police, show respect for our law enforcement, provide tougher sentencing for violent and repeat offenders, and hold the justice system accountable to insure violent criminals are off our streets.

**EDUCATION:** I will ensure that parents have a final voice in what is taught in our schools and that local school boards have the power to make local decisions. Our educational system needs to be improved to include a return to traditional educational programs and values, parental transparency in educational curriculum and protecting the safety of our children. Schools also need to be held accountable.

**HEALTH:** We must continue to focus on providing access to quality healthcare. In the mid-shore area of my district, University of Maryland has done a good job to modernize outpatient services and improve emergency services. Focus must be on building and modernizing a new hospital for the mid-shore. We need to support Tidal Health to insure exceptional services continue to be provided to the lower shore.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** I will always want to insure the health of the Chesapeake Bay and work to balance the environmental concerns along with planned, responsible growth and development which provides economic development and job creation. We need to address the failing municipal and residential sewer systems and focus attention to the issues being created north of the Conowingo Dam and stop the blame on our farmers.

**LOCAL PROJECTS:** Upon being elected, my top priority is to provide exceptional constituency services to the citizens of District 37B. My top legislative issues are refunding and supporting law enforcement, improving public safety and reducing crime, and improving our educational system to include a return to traditional educational programs & values, parental transparency in curriculum, and protecting children.

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** I will always support law enforcement and our first responders everyday, unequivocally. I am concerned about the health and long-term viability of our volunteer fire companies and EMS. They are the lifeblood and the fabric of our communities. We need to find better ways to support them to insure they can provide modern safety equipment, modern apparatus, and attract new volunteers.

**Susan E. Delean-Botkin**  
**Democratic**  
**Campaign Website:**  
 Susanforeasternshore.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** 25 years Family Nurse Practitioner, Easton. 20 years nationally recognized business owner. 6 years service-Board of Education Talbot County. 10 years service Oxford Appeals Board. 20 years as advocate for legislative change in health care, education and environment. Work successfully with multiple stakeholders for positive community improvement. Continually listening for needs.

**ECONOMIC INEQUITIES:** State must level the playing field - eliminate barriers. Incentivize new entrepreneurs with mentor programs, sound business practices, learning opportunities, simplification of business

applications, promote non-predatory lenders. Start business program in middle schools, offer adult night classes. Expand Junior Achievement. Sponsor incubator business programs. Teach farming as a business

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Evaluate the crime problem - what is underlying cause? What are short term interventions? Long term solutions? Train police to be part of the solution to crime reduction. Engage community to work with police. Provide better education, training and pay for officers. Train and retrain officers, partner with social services. Decrease non-violent crime sentences, restructure bail system.

**EDUCATION:** Covid clearly showed the necessity of having qualified teachers. Expand efforts to recruit and retain qualified teachers.

Electronic media is great to supplement, but in-person teaching is critical. Implement Blueprint for Maryland for success for all children. State must fund state mandates. Expand programs for CTE and AP classes to wider high school population. Children must come first!

**HEALTH:** Skilled, licensed healthcare personnel shortage is the biggest challenge facing Maryland. Rebuild the primary care structure of health care - primary care, nursing, health departments. Provide education support for licensed primary care providers. Negotiate pricing with drug companies. Institute Health insurance equity. Create a statewide EMR system. Restructure medical malpractice.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** My greatest concern is balancing growth and development with the necessity of preserving the Mid Shore's water, land, and way of life. Our farmers work to prevent run off of nitrogen and phosphorus. Our watermen work with catch



and size restrictions. But wastewater treatment plants from upstream cities cause pollution of our water. Regulations must be enforced on wastewater and sewage plants.

**LOCAL PROJECTS:** Broadband, offered to all at reasonable prices. Affordable housing initiative, job opportunities in industries that are non-polluting, and energy efficient. Decrease flow of illegal drugs, provide treatment and life skills training to prevent relapse and prevent addiction. Balance regional growth and development in a fragile ecological system. Support immigrant programs to equalize opportunity

**OTHER PRIORITIES:** The Mid Shore of Maryland is a gem. We have a way of life that we treasure and must protect. We have serious environmental concerns to address. Our senior population is growing and needs representation. Our middle aged workers need health care and retraining, Our Veterans need services in our community. Schools must be a top priority, our children are our future and most precious resource

## Talbot County Offices, Ballot Questions

### Talbot County Council

**DUTIES:** Council powers and responsibilities are derived from the Charter of Talbot County as adopted in November 1974. The Council appoints a County Manager who serves as the chief

administrative officer of the County. The Council also appoints the County Attorney and Members of all boards and Commissions. They maintain and update the Talbot County Code and oversee the administrative units of the County including Planning, Planning and Zoning, Public Works, and Budget and Finance. The County Council is composed of five members elected at large.

**BASE SALARY:** \$14,400

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

### QUESTIONS

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

**BUDGET:** What are your priorities for the county budget?

**PRIORITIES:** If elected, what would be your priorities for the next four years?

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** What are your priorities for land use in our county?

**EMPLOYMENT:** What policies to you support to encourage economic development and job growth?

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** How would you increase the availability of affordable housing?

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** What are your priorities for supporting the public health system?

### CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 5

**Chuck F. Callahan, III**  
**Republican**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am the owner of three businesses, one of which has been in operation since 1969. I have served two terms on the Council and have been Vice-President and am the current President of the Talbot County Council.

**BUDGET:** My number one priority is to make sure our emergency services and public safety services have the budget needed to retain and hire qualified individuals and to effectively operate their departments.

**PRIORITIES:** To continue the process of providing County sewer to homes with failing septic systems in order to help to improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Continue to support and promote the Career and Technology programs at the schools. These provide training in current fields to help prepare students for their career after graduation.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Land use should be viewed as a balance between the needs of continued economic growth and affordable housing and the needs of keeping our rural way of life and protecting the environment. I weight all of these needs when making decisions about continued land development.

**EMPLOYMENT:** The Council combined the County Tourism and Economic Development Departments in order to improve the functioning of the departments and to have better outreach to bring business into the County and provide better services for current businesses.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Support the Maryland Department of Housing for Talbot County, which provides funding to develop affordable housing options, such as the project on Port Street.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** We are in the process of providing a new building for the Health Department so that they can function more efficiently to address health needs of the County.

**Lynn Leonhardt Mielke**  
**Republican**

**Campaign Website:** [vote4lynn.com](http://vote4lynn.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As an attorney having practiced law on the Mid-Shore for 43 years, I bring skills of problem solving, advocacy, research, analysis, networking, and communication. I have served on a variety of boards including Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, MSBA judicial nominating committee and the Sts Peter and Paul Women's Guild, and volunteered my services supporting arts organizations in Talbot County.

**BUDGET:** Keeping it balanced; maintaining the tax cap with limiting annual increases in property taxes to 2% or CPI-U, whichever is less; adequately funding public safety and emergency services; vigilant monitoring of the school budget and expenditures; and increase impact fees and create other developer contribution requirements to help finance the infrastructure.

**PRIORITIES:** Revision of the comprehensive plan and the appointment of the steering committee and citizen advisory committees to assist with it. Adapt the dictates of our urban/suburban dominated state government in Annapolis to our local needs. Exert more control over "smart" growth and create a

"smarter" growth plan. Expand health care services, especially primary care physicians and our hospital.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Improve water, sewer, broadband services; preserve our traditional Watermen and Agricultural heritages; ensure sensible development and avoid mismanaged approvals like the Bellevue and Lakeside developments. Enact an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to require developers to contribute to needed infrastructure. Set a high bar for awarding critical areas growth allocations to developers.

**EMPLOYMENT:** We once had a vibrant small manufacturing base which provided good jobs. We need to attract 21st century small manufacturing and tech companies.

Affordable housing and tax incentives would attract employees and should be targeted to the County's most urgent employment needs.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The County has really delegated this issue to the towns concurrently with the "Smart Growth" plan. It has retained little oversight or control over promoting availability of affordable housing. The County needs to take control of the affordable housing process and oversight of its implementation by county municipalities.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Tax exemptions/credits to health care workers. Appoint a "blue ribbon" commission to study and analyze our understaffed, underfunded and under performing hospital. Work with Talbot Thrive, Inc. to foster safe conditions and measures for people walking and bicycling in Talbot County.

**David Montgomery**  
**Republican**  
**Campaign Website:**

[www.MontgomeryforTalbot.com](http://www.MontgomeryforTalbot.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have a PhD in economics and 40 years of experience in government and consulting. I have advised policy makers at the highest levels of government on tax policy and budgets, and will apply that training and experience to deal with the challenges of providing needed public services while maintaining low tax rates.

**BUDGET:** Maintaining first rate public safety — fire, police, and emergency medical services. These are the top priority and must be funded adequately. Since school expenditures are over half of total county expenditures, school budgets must be scrutinized carefully to eliminate waste, unnecessary administrative expenditures, and undesirable programs.

**PRIORITIES:** Maintain effective and proactive policing. Keep development within bounds that protect our rural character and unique culture. Ensure that schools educate students to think, read, and write, to understand history and civics. Let parents control their children's health and moral development. To keep taxes low and ensure that all county programs give benefits greater than costs.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** The county must remain rural, and control land use to prevent runaway growth. Huge new developments should not be allowed. Land use must be guided by the Comprehensive Plan, which takes into account infrastructure burdens, water quality, congestion and similar criteria in putting guardrails on the pace and location of development. Existing agricultural land and open space should be preserved.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Local govt policies to attract business and promote growth are largely a waste of taxpayers money and unlikely to succeed. The Council should minimize unnecessary regulatory burdens on local businesses, fight for farmers, manufacturers and watermen at the state level, ensure schools provide education and training that will enable students to succeed, and leave the rest to private enterprise.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I do not think subsidized housing or mandatory quotas for developers to build "affordable housing" are good policy. We need to examine unnecessary building codes and other county regulations and zoning that drive the cost of even small houses beyond reach. We need to keep financial investors from buying up houses and land to turn into rental properties, that drives up housing prices.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Talbot County needs and can afford better health care than is provided by the Shore Health System monopoly. The Council should meet with the Anne Arundel and Johns Hopkins community health systems to find out what can be done to bring better primary care and specialist doctors here. The emergency room at Easton Hospital is a disgrace, and needs better management and staffing.

**Dave Stepp**  
**Republican**

**Campaign Website:**

[www.davestepportalbotcountycouncil.com](http://www.davestepportalbotcountycouncil.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Dave is a leader, coach, volunteer, and mentor in Talbot County - roles which he has happily served for over a decade. Professionally, Dave has worked in the telecommunications industry for over 23

years in various sales and management roles. Dave is also the owner of 2 small businesses here in Talbot County. Dave has an MBA, a BS in Management Studies, and an AA degree in Law Enforcement.

**BUDGET:** Dave will ensure that your tax dollars are kept low by making wise financial decisions for Talbot County. Dave will ask the tough questions and make the tough decisions. Dave will ensure that your tax dollars work for you and towards decisions that keep you and your family safe, healthy, and prosperous. Dave especially believes in funding our police, first responders, students, and teachers.

**PRIORITIES:** Dave's priorities are: 1) Protect your rights and freedoms 2) Support, fund, and defend our law enforcement and first responders 3) Support and fund our students and teachers, not critical race theory (CRT) or social emotional learning (SEL) 4) Ensure development that follows the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan, benefits everyone, protects our environment, and preserves our rural character.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Again, Dave believes development in Talbot County should follow the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, benefit everyone, protect our environment, and preserve our rural character. Dave does not want Talbot County to turn into one of the many over-developed counties in Maryland. Dave wants to ensure Talbot County remains a great place to live, work, and play.

**EMPLOYMENT:** As a small business owner himself, Dave supports efforts to retain and grow small business as well as attract new businesses to existing and available commercial locations. Talbot County residents already enjoy low taxes - they should be kept low to attract businesses that offer competitive employee wages, so that future

generations can continue to live, work, and play in Talbot County.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Affordable housing is part of a larger picture that Dave fully understands. Dave believes growth in Talbot County without preparation, insight, and proper infrastructure only benefits a select few. Dave will ensure smart growth that benefits everyone in the form of good jobs, affordable housing, and continued small business development - for the best overall quality of life in Talbot County.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Dave is not a medical doctor and does not believe medical decisions should be made by public officials or government entities - that is practicing medicine without a license. Your personal health is between you and your chosen medical professional. Dave does not support any governmental medical mandates, nor does he support shutting down the Talbot County economy as was done in recent years.

**Wade Strickland**  
**Republican**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Business management and Quality Control keeps me detail oriented while living here most of my life keeps me grounded and in touch with our people. Strong community relationships are vital for open lines of communication. Being accessible and approachable are key in building a trusting relationship with our citizens. An elected official must listen and respond on behalf of the people represented.

**BUDGET:** In the tough times we are all facing, we must be even more diligent in assuring our tax dollars are spent wisely. We must maintain our infrastructure and adequately fund our emergency services and

law enforcement organizations to ensure public safety. Our education budget is over half of our county budget and needs review from the top down.

**PRIORITIES:** There are many priorities. Our community has always been very tight knit. We need to get back to being a close community. We need to find ways to bring our citizens together. Our community is losing our young people because of lack of opportunities in employment and affordable housing. Our teachers and law enforcement officers are underpaid. We must be competitive in their job market.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** We must develop a plan and allow affordable housing for our younger generation. We must attract and allow careful growth of higher paying employers. The disparity between home values and family income is untenable. While allowing for this growth, we must be sure to protect our environment by following sound, carefully thought development practices.

**EMPLOYMENT:** While maintaining our small county charm is extremely important, we can't continue to make it difficult for business to survive in Talbot County. We need better wage scale employment opportunities including technology and clean manufacturing. We must help these employers survive and provide better paying jobs for our citizens. Our children's ability to live here depends upon a livable wage.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** If we are ever to allow for affordable homes, we must stop catering to the developers who push "million dollar homes". We need to start catering to our younger citizens needs. Young families cannot afford \$500K homes. Back in the 1980's and 1990's, the "Stoney Ridge" and "Chapel East" developments were built.

These were well planned developments that have provided affordable housing.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** The public health question ties back to our first responders. We must ensure they have the support and resources necessary to adequately respond to our public safety needs.

**Michele W. Dappert**  
**Democratic**

**Campaign Website:**

[www.dappertfortalbot.com](http://www.dappertfortalbot.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a local woman who loves Talbot, I have brought my professional digital expertise to our organizations for the better part of a decade, including the Frederick Douglass Society & the Election Board. Routinely overseeing seven figure budgets for clients like the MD Dept. of Commerce in my career, I know how to administer them fairly, tracking how every dollar is spent.

**BUDGET:** Education, first and foremost, must be fully funded, so teachers, students and staff have the support they need. Top priorities also include public safety and improvements to county infrastructure (roadway investments, upgrades to sanitation facilities, and expanded broadband/information technology services). I'll work to invest in projects of key public interest.

**PRIORITIES:** During the Council's next term, one of the largest tasks we will face is building the Comprehensive Plan that will govern developmental planning for the next six years. I will strive to bring a new perspective to the council's work; preparing for the effects of rising sea levels and

modernizing county services, all while protecting the rural character of Talbot.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Blessed with 600 miles of shoreline, it is essential that we protect the rural character of our county, make investments that encourage healthy ecosystem services, enable smart growth & plan developments that will grow our county's economic opportunity while protecting the two-mile greenbelts around our municipalities.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Economic development goes hand-in-hand with attracting a talented workforce -- and we know already that people are attracted to the quiet luxury of Talbot's shores. Improving retention is the next step & we can do it with a focus on our citizen's quality of life in an area with clean waterways, with school, healthcare, and public safety officials making better wages in good working conditions.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** With protections keeping renters in homes sunsetting, demand skyrocketing and short supply - Talbot faces an affordable housing crisis. On the council, I would focus on smart growth that enforces required set asides for affordable housing, infrastructure supported by developers and incentives for redevelopment of distressed properties.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** As a rural county, Talbot faces unique challenges despite the fact that healthcare makes up the backbone of our community and economy. I would focus on improving access to care, supporting sustainable funding for senior and assisted living facilities (as well as live-at-home programs). I also would prioritize expanding broadband access to every Talbot home, to enable better tele-health.



**Keasha N. Haythe**  
**Democratic****Campaign Website:** Keasha4talbot.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Economic Development Professional in local government for 21 years managing the budget and employees.

Established public/private partnerships to initiate policies and innovative strategies. Degree in Business Administration and Political Science. Served on local and state boards and commissions. Founded the Foundation of HOPE, Inc., a non-profit established to help adolescent girls in school.

**BUDGET:** Talbot County like other counties that have a revenue cap is in need of additional revenue sources. This would help ensure educational needs are met and teachers salaries are increased and competitive with other jurisdictions. Supporting education, economic development, and ensuring vital public safety and public works services are delivered to citizens are my priorities.

**PRIORITIES:** Fiscal responsibility and transparency in government. Support education, economic development as it relates to businesses and business climate. Support environmental strategies that protect the environment and rural character. Public safety, supporting paramedics, fire and EMT's.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Talbot County's rural character is what many residents and visitors love. The Comp Plan is the roadmap and recommends development in municipalities in accordance with PFA's. I would like to explore if an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance could be beneficial and used as additional tool to manage growth.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Policy and programs that create innovative strategies and use technology as a tool to foster economic

growth. Partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders to: 1) support entrepreneurship and expansion of existing businesses as key economic drivers to create jobs and 2) establish broadband in all areas of Talbot County.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Support public/private partnerships and discuss creating policy for inclusion of affordable units in market-rate housing projects. Preserve dedicated affordable housing and expand supply by partnering with entities proposing to build affordable housing. Establish housing education programs and bring back the housing coordinator position to provide housing resources.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Ensure Talbot County continues to deliver essential public health services to residents by supporting the local hospital. Including but not limited to mental health and addiction services being available to those in need of services. Partner with local organizations who are doing work to reduce/eliminate health care disparity in the minority communities.

**Phil Jackson**  
**Democratic****Campaign Website:** www.jacksonstalbot.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have several professional experiences that equip me to address issues that are important to our votes. I've been leading the transition of a shared sanitation system to Talbot County for the past four years, building important relationships with local and state government. I built and developed healthcare practices in Talbot County, and understand the imperative need for broadband..

**BUDGET:** Ensuring that our county can continue to prosper means equipping our county employees - teachers, law enforcement and fire fighters - with equitable and competitive pay. We must solve for how we to do this, especially with inflation outpacing revenue opportunities. Looking for revenue generating opportunities outside of the tax base is one way to challenge the status quo in Talbot County.

**PRIORITIES:** Our next County Council will serve a critical role in developing the comprehensive plan which will set our compass for the next ten years. This is an important responsibility and is due respect and investment by the Council. Critical issues include healthcare and public safety, broadband availability, clean water and ethical sanitation and education. These issues effect every resident.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** One of the contributing factors that drew my family to Talbot County was the rural environment. Our community places significant value on this. Watermen and farmers rely on this land to provide for their families. I am focused on thoughtfully developing Talbot County to meet our residents and businesses where they need, but always being mindful of the values that make Talbot County special.

**EMPLOYMENT:** I am a firm believer that, like with farming, the value of our crop starts with the seeds and land. Our community must make significant investment in its foundational components to draw new investment and talent to Talbot County. This includes empowering our school system with exceptional funding and ensuring that our healthcare workers and public safety professionals are well equipped.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** I regularly hear from friends and neighbors how difficult it can



be to find affordable housing in Talbot County. When young people begin careers in this community, the only option is often to find a roommate or move out of county. We need to address the stigma that affordable housing has and we need to look for novel ways to provide this resource in our most active and needing communities.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Our public health system in Talbot County rose to the occasion during COVID and demonstrated how exceptional they are as a community resource. We must provide for our public health system with resources to include a new office. COVID is very likely sticking around for some time, and the better we are able to resource the public health system, the better our community can be cared for.

**Scott Kane**  
**Democratic**

**Campaign Website:** [www.Kane4Talbot.com](http://www.Kane4Talbot.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Beginning as Mayor of Chevy Chase, I have been involved in local government my whole career. There I worked with citizens and the County to develop the Bethesda Central Business District, improve Public Services and upgrade infrastructure for citizens. I've worked with state elected officials to deliver significant local funding.

**BUDGET:** 53% of Talbot County's budget goes to Public Education; 21% to Public Safety. For 2023, the current County Council kept both flat while expanding the rest of their budget by 16%. Those are the wrong priorities. I will reprioritize the budget, focusing on Public Education, Jobs, and Public Safety.

**PRIORITIES:** My priorities are: Jobs, Education, Broadband, Public Safety,

providing better Public Transportation; improving traffic congestion on RT 50 and improving our roads, walkways and bike paths. Reducing the impact of Climate Change on Talbot County, improving the Environment and Clean Water, and importantly, better Access to Healthcare for all citizens.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** Updating our current Land Use Plan for Talbot County to improve the quality of life for our citizens and grow the economy in new and smart ways. For instance, bring high-speed Broadband to every home and business – then use it to develop a "Smart County" that leverages this technology.

**EMPLOYMENT:** I will fix the Talbot County economy by bringing jobs, transportation and the Broadband infrastructure the county needs. I will recruit companies to come to the county; highlighting our airport; working with our neighboring counties and towns to identify our strengths – and then feature them in bold new programs.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The median income in Talbot County is \$73,000 which doesn't cover the average price of a home of \$325,000. I will work with developers to find creative ways to reduce the cost of a new home. I will promote the use of smart technology to reduce home operating costs.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** We need to fix the Public Health predicament in our county. Over half of our citizens don't receive adequate health care due to cost, lack of information or lack of transportation. I will expand public transportation across the county; open clinics in outlying communities; and establish mobile health services.

**Pete Leshner**  
**Democratic**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have served one term on the Talbot Co. Council, the last 2 years as Vice President. Previously, I served 9+ years on the Easton Town Council. I have worked at Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for 31 years, now as Chief Curator. I volunteer on state and community boards including Talbot Co. Free Library, Talbot Co. Arts Council, Upper Shore Aging, Md Humanities, and the Md Heritage Areas Authority.

**BUDGET:**

**PRIORITIES:** I will continue to pursue three priorities: first, the expansion of broadband internet access to every address in Talbot County, which is an important economic development tool; second, clean water initiatives and preservation of open space and the rural character of Talbot County; third, recruitment and retention of the county's workforce, notably in public safety and emergency services.

**DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE:** My vision for Talbot Co: direct growth to existing developed areas, where adequate infrastructure exists—roads, parks, water & sewer, & schools. Talbot Co.'s rural character & open spaces are vital for our quality of life & tourism industry. While we need to extend sewer systems to eliminate failing septic systems and clean our waters, this must be done in a way that does not enable sprawl.

**EMPLOYMENT:** I have supported economic development initiatives such as the expansion of Aphena Pharma Solutions and will continue to do so. Our greatest economic development opportunity is the extension of broadband to every rural address. I have championed this project, and Talbot now has funding for more than 92% of the unserved or underserved

addresses in the County. I will prioritize finishing this job.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The County has created a financial housing incentive for County employees, but we need to do much more. I have supported programs for the creation of workforce housing and will continue to do so in cooperation with our municipalities.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** The County Council acts as the local board of health, and I take this responsibility seriously. While I have no training in public health, I have relied on the advice and consultation of our county health officer. While the County Health Department is a State Agency, I have supported requests and recommendations of the County Health Officer during my tenure.

## Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large

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

**SALARY:** \$183,633

**TERM:** Ten years, no term limit.

Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

**HOW ELECTED:** When there is a vacancy on the Court of Special Appeals, the governor appoints a qualified person to fill the office, with the consent of the

State Senate. Once appointed, the appellate judge holds the office until the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. At that time, the judge runs for election for a ten-year term on their record (yes or no for continuance in office). No one is permitted to file against them. If the incumbent judge is approved, the judge faces another "retention election" every ten years to continue in office. If the incumbent judge is rejected by the voters, the post becomes vacant, and the governor makes a new appointment.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

**MOTIVATION:** What inspires you to serve in this judgeship?

**JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:** What is your judicial philosophy?

## CANDIDATES

Vote Yes or No for Continuance in Office

**Stuart R. Berger**

No response received by print deadline;  
check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

**Terrence M. R. Zic**

No response received by print deadline;  
check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

## Talbot County State's Attorney

**DUTIES:** The State's Attorney prosecutes and defends, on the part of the State, all criminal cases in Talbot County in which the State may be interested. The State's Attorney heads a team of prosecutors, victim advocates, case managers, investigators and other administrative staff. In addition to seeking justice in criminal cases, the State's Attorney's office provides training to lawyers, promotes fairness and ensures access to the criminal justice system, fosters professional relations with judges and attorneys, educates the public about criminal justice issues, and seeks to further the efficient use of criminal justice resources.

**BASE SALARY:** \$129,066

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

**DISCRIMINATION:** What specific actions would you take to avoid bias in prosecutions?

**SENTENCING:** What are your views on alternatives to prison?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Joseph Coale**  
**Republican**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I graduated from Georgetown Law in 1997 and have 24 of experience in criminal law. I am currently Deputy State's Attorney for Talbot County and also served as Deputy State's Attorney for Caroline County. I intend to apply state-of-the-art ideas I have seen in action and build on the existing practices of our fine office. I am endorsed by Scott Patterson, who is retiring from the office.

**PRIORITIES:** My priority will be to advocate strenuously for victims of crime and seek stiff penalties for violent offenders. I will also tackle the opioid crisis by prosecuting drug dealers to the full extent of the law while working to educate the public about the dangers of opiates, especially fentanyl. I will stand with and support law enforcement to keep the county safe.

**DISCRIMINATION:** I will update the current filing system with a digital system. This will allow data analysis not currently available to the office. Disparities in sentencing or prosecutorial decisions will then be revealed in the data and addressed appropriately. I will also work to increase diversity in the office by diligently recruiting qualified applicants representative of our community.

**SENTENCING:** I helped implement the adult and juvenile drug courts in Caroline County

over ten years ago. Drug court is a reasonable alternative to incarceration in cases where the offender is addicted to drugs, has a minor record and is not charged with a felony or violent crime. Work release is also a viable alternative in appropriate cases, as it allows prisoners to keep employment while incarcerated.

**Ellen Barry Grunden**  
**Democratic**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been a prosecutor for 24 years, 21 in Talbot County. For the past 18, I've had nearly all of the responsibilities of the elected State's Attorney. I have built relationships with members of law enforcement and all other agencies that interact with our office and have earned the trust and respect of those who work there through my diligence and reliability. I am ready to lead on Day One.

**PRIORITIES:** My priority within the office is to instill a sense of mission and purpose consistent with the oath we take as prosecutors and to provide genuine support for all employees so that we retain dedicated public servants. My priority in the community is to ensure that there is trust between the citizens of the county and those of us - prosecutors and police officers - who enforce the law.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Bias in prosecution - whether it concerns race, gender, class or, in this small community, familiarity - is an abuse of power. I will treat all citizens fairly and none preferentially. I will monitor jury panels to ensure defendants receive decisions made by their peers. I will secure prosecutors outside our office to represent the State if

there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

**SENTENCING:** A healthy and safe community requires not only the imposition of consequences for violating the law, but a determination of what factors lead to criminal conduct. While incarceration is required if the person poses a threat to others, treatment for substance abuse and mental/behavioral health issues must be available so that a willing individual committed to rehabilitation can meet that goal.

## Talbot County Clerk of the Circuit Court

**DUTIES:** The Clerk of the Circuit Court oversees the county office that performs many administrative duties for the Circuit Court, including the maintenance of court records. The Clerk's office files, processes and maintains civil, criminal and juvenile actions. It also records and maintains electronic land deeds, mortgages, plats, conveyances, liens and other land record documents and collects recording fees and transfer taxes. The Clerk administers oaths to County officials, Judges and Governor appointees; issues business and marriage licenses; performs civil wedding ceremonies; commissions Notaries Public; and processes passport applications. The Clerk also manages the office budget as set by the State Administrative Office of the Court.

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

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

**AREAS OF NEED:** What changes, if any, are needed to ensure effective and efficient operation of this office?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Kathi Dulin Duvall**  
**Republican**  
**Campaign**

**Website:** kathidulinduvallforclerk.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I currently serve as Clerk of Circuit Court and have 11 years of experience in the Clerk's office. I am currently the president of the MD Circuit Court Clerks' Association, Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, and a member of the Judicial Council & Clerks' Legislative Committee. I have many years of business management experience in the private sector as well.

**PRIORITIES:** To continue to serve our customers in a professional, friendly and efficient manner while finding new and innovative ways to uphold the MD Judiciary's mission to "provide fair, efficient and effective justice for all". I will strive to keep myself and my staff current with the constant changes that we face that affect how we do business on a day to day basis.

**AREAS OF NEED:** We already have a highly effective team and will always look for ways to improve on our outstanding customer service. We will continue to work closely with the MD Judiciary to further educate our team so we can continue to make advancements in this ever-changing world we serve in. Change is inevitable. Being able to adapt is key and we will continue to stay ready to do so.

**Nicole Caudell**  
**Democratic**

**Campaign Website:** www.nicole4shore.com

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Vermont Law School graduate and Social Justice Missions Scholar, I provide the unique qualifications voters expect as their next Clerk of Court. I have nearly fourteen years of experience processing criminal cases and account receivables.

**PRIORITIES:** My priorities for this office are to make it more efficient with a streamlined operating procedure where every citizen feels acknowledged and their matters are handled promptly.

**AREAS OF NEED:** Cross-training and continued education will create a more efficient and unified office.

## Talbot 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; tracks estates and refers all delinquent matters to the Court; and safeguards wills of living persons who reside in the county.

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

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

**AREAS OF NEED:** What changes, if any, are needed to ensure effective and efficient operation of this office?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Patricia "Patti" E. Campen**  
**Democratic**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A Register should possess three important traits: Experience, Dedication, and Commitment. I have been fortunate to work in the office of the Register of Wills since 2007, which led to my appointment as Register in January, 2013. Prior thereto, I worked 25 years in a local law firm which prepared me for the complex issues involved in the administration of estates and managing a public office.

**PRIORITIES:** Being dedicated to providing competent and accessible service to Talbot



County citizens is my main priority. Currently, I am proud to have been able to do so without interruption through the pandemic and recent fire damage and remediation in the Talbot County Courthouse.

**AREAS OF NEED:** In our ever-changing society, I am committed to search for ways to improve service through technology while maintaining the old-fashioned and time honored ideals of respectful, qualified, and hands-on personal service with a smile. Thank you very much for your vote of confidence.

## Talbot County Judge of the Orphans' Court

**DUTIES:** The Maryland Orphans' Court is the state's probate court and presides over the administration of estates; it also has jurisdiction over guardianship of minors. Orphans' Court judges are responsible for the supervision of estates that must go through probate. They also may appoint Guardians for the person and property of minors. Orphans' Court judges conduct formal hearings involving estate or guardianship disputes and rule on Petitions and Administration Accounts involved with estate and/or guardianship proceedings. The State Constitution does not require Orphans' Court judges to be lawyers.

**BASE SALARY:** \$5,500

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

**JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:** What is your judicial philosophy?

**MOTIVATION:** What inspires you to serve in this judgeship?

questions, showing genuine compassion and fairness while considering the evidence, asking for honesty and integrity from family members, and applying equal treatment to all people are of great importance. Weekly background preparation for hearings and knowledge of MD. laws are important so I can help guide and meet the decedent's wishes. **MOTIVATION:** Helping families come to an amicable agreement when settling the decedent's estate inspires me to be patient, understanding, showing compassion, and fairness while applying the Maryland law.

## CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 3

**Paul S. Carroll**  
**Republican**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a native of Talbot County and have lived here all my life. I have had a successful career of 49 years with Sears in Easton. I was honored to be elected to the Orphans' Court in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. Presently, I am serving as Chief Judge and also serve on the 8 member MD. Association of Judges board that represents the 66 Judges in MD. With your vote I hope to serve another term.

**PRIORITIES:** I take the office of the Orphans' Court Judge seriously. It is a weekly commitment to guide and assist in estate settlements while applying Maryland law. I want to continue my good working relationship with the two other Judges and the Register of Wills and office staff. With this cohesion we can continue to offer outstanding service to our citizens of Talbot County.

**JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:** Being a good listener to grieving families when there are

**Jack Hall**  
**Republican**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I currently serve as one of three Orphans' Court judges of Talbot County, having done so since August 2020. Before that, I practiced law in Talbot County for forty years. My practice included preparing Wills and Trusts and administering estates of decedents. When necessary, I participated in hearings conducted by the Orphan's Court.

**PRIORITIES:** Ensuring that those responsible for the administration of estates of decedents do so within legal deadlines, and in full compliance with Maryland Law; resolving disputes that arise during such proceedings fairly and promptly; working with the Register of Wills to assist her in fulfillment her duties.

**JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:** Each person is entitled to be treated the same as any other person; every person is entitled to be heard in any court proceedings, so long as he or she does so civilly and decorously; while the assistance of a lawyer may be helpful to a participant, it is not necessary when appearing in our Court.



**MOTIVATION:** Talbot County's Orphans' Court and the office of Register of Wills has a long history of exceptional service to our citizens. It is an honor as well as a privilege to be part of that history.

**David J. Wheeler**  
**Republican**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a Judge on the Orphans' Court since 2018, it has been my privilege to be a true "Guardian" of the administration and oversight of estates. As a graduate of Duke University with extensive business and financial experience, I possess current expertise of the law to ensure that a decedent's intentions are handled appropriately.

**PRIORITIES:** The Talbot Orphans' Court must continue to provide timely and equitable settlement of all estate issues in accordance with the decedent's final wishes as provided for by Maryland law. In addition, all interested persons must be afforded an opportunity to be heard from their perspective any issues in regards to the estate.

**JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:** Be fair and impartial. By applying the appropriate Maryland laws to recognize precedent and fair procedure, the Orphans' Court should always be about fulfilling the decedent's wishes. As a "Court of Equity" we must also be sensitive to family issues while still being the ultimate defender and protector of the estate.

**MOTIVATION:** Being blessed to live and work in Talbot County, I have always been motivated to give back to the Community in whatever way I can. Continuing as a Judge of the Orphans' Court allows me to have a real and positive impact on the people I meet

every week. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Philip Carey Foster**  
**Democratic**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** \*Graduate of Easton High, College of Wooster & Vanderbilt Law school. \*Captain in the US Army. \*Former County Council President, State's Attorney & Delegate to MD General Assembly.

\*Completed mediation training. \*Former associate professor at Chesapeake College in various law related subjects. \*More than 4 decades in the private practice of law. \*Past president of the Talbot Bar Association.

**PRIORITIES:** Each year the Orphans' Court handles estates totaling many millions of dollars. What was once a simple process has become increasingly complex, often involving serious legal questions. As an attorney who has advised in both planning & probating estates, my priority would be to promote a process that is fair and open to members of the public, the outcome of which will justify their confidence.

**JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY:** It is important that each case be decided on its merits. Moreover, a judge needs to protect the rights of all those who come before the court, including those people not able to hire a lawyer. Consequently, I will not accept financial contributions from other attorneys. Finally a judge must be dedicated to a search for the truth. Each person's right to be heard should be honored and protected.

**MOTIVATION:** As Q1 demonstrates, my life has been one of service to the people of Talbot County. Whether coaching youth soccer for 27 years, protecting public safety as State's Attorney or addressing issues as a

Delegate or member of County Council, service to others has been a priority for me. Now I am asking for your confidence as I seek to apply my legal experience & training as an Orphans' Court judge.

## Talbot County Sheriff

**DUTIES:** The Sheriff's Office is a full-function law enforcement agency which operates throughout the county. Public safety activities include law enforcement and all related activities to support investigations of either a traffic or criminal nature, including accident investigation, monitoring sex offenders, traffic safety programs, narcotics investigations, protective measures for domestic violence, and the investigation of all serious or reported crimes. Its civil component acts as an officer of the circuit court, carrying out court orders, including evictions; delivering summonses; and executing bench warrants. It also provides management of and security for courthouse operations.

**BASE SALARY:** \$115,000

**TERM:** Four years, no term limit.

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected county-wide.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

**DISCRIMINATION:** How will you ensure that officers treat everyone fairly?

## CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Joe Gamble**  
Republican

**QUALIFICATIONS:** During my nearly 28 years with the Maryland State Police I was able to investigate and supervise violent crimes in every county in Maryland and many of the 160 plus police departments and sheriff's offices across the state. Those experiences helped me to understand what works and what doesn't work to keep our citizens safe.

**PRIORITIES:** A sheriff's office, more so than any other police organization, must be in constant contact with the citizenry. Contact with all of those in our community is vital to understand the public safety needs of our community as well as earning the trust of our citizens. Trust is earned every day and must never be taken for granted. Our citizens deserve a sheriff's office that is above reproach.

**OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY:** I meet regularly with citizens from across Talbot County for input on what their concerns are regarding public safety for their community. Our drug education efforts known as "Talbot Goes Purple" has allowed me to give over 200 drug education talks in our schools, community and in other parts of Maryland. The talks typically have a Q& A time where I learn of other issues that helps us to serve.

**DISCRIMINATION:** After taking office my office totally re-wrote every policy at the

sheriff's office with a team of attorneys. We looked at Federal and state law as well as national best practices in policing to formulate those policies and procedures. Once implemented then every deputy was trained and had to sign for the policies. The policies allow us to hold deputies accountable for straying from them.

## Talbot County Board of Education

**DUTIES:** The Board establishes specific policies that govern school system operations and has authority over fiscal year budgets, curriculum materials, textbooks, personnel appointments, capital improvements, land acquisitions, grant applications, and other policy decisions. In addition to selecting and appointing the Superintendent of Schools, the Board also employs legal counsel and external auditors.

BASE SALARY: \$3,200

**TERM:** Four years.

**HOW ELECTED:** This is a non-partisan position. During gubernatorial elections (both primary and general), registered voters may vote for one candidate for their district of residence. Only contested races (more than two candidates) appear on the primary ballot.

## QUESTIONS

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

**PRIORITIES:** If elected, what would be your priorities for the next four years?

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** How will you address school safety issues, including mental, physical, and emotional health?

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** What needs to be done to narrow the achievement gaps in our school system?

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

## Talbot County Board of Education District 1

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Joe B. Mowery, Sr.**

No response received by print deadline;  
check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

**Jymil S. Thompson**

No response received by print deadline;  
check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

## Talbot County Board of Education District 3

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Amy R. Dodson**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have resided in Talbot County since 2013. I have 3 young children currently attending public school. I am married to an educator of 23 years in a neighboring county. I am a supporter of public education and personally vested in its success. I am also an advocate for those with special needs. I will work to ensure that all children have their needs met within our schools.

**PRIORITIES:** One of our biggest issues is teacher retention and recruitment. We must have quality teachers to ensure that our schools are successful. To keep class sizes small we must have more teachers. Evaluating pay, benefits, support, and employment culture are important to retention and recruitment.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** We need to increase resources for our schools. We need to ensure that we have enough school counselors, resource officers, and social workers. We need to ensure the support and resources are shared appropriately between all of our schools regardless of their size. We should encourage teachers to speak to parents if they notice a child not acting like themselves. Partnership with school, families.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** Support outside of the classroom could help narrow the gap. We should expand tutoring opportunities at all

schools. All grades are impacted and the pandemic exacerbated this gap. Exploring a peer tutoring model interests me. Expanding in school concentrated learning opportunities in core subjects also seems critical.

Supportive learning environments must wrap around the children's school day.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:** Any student that is interested in pursuing college should be helped or advised to meet these goals. For students not interested in college we should encourage participation in vocational studies and offer support and encouragement. Our schools build the future of our community so we must encourage pursuit of interests in a full variety of skills, trades, and careers.

**Donna Nizolek**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a devoted parent of two children and belong to a family for whom education is paramount. I attended public schools and hold a B.A., a M.S., and a D.V.M. degree. My husband and I owned the Community Animal Hospital for 35 years, and we are still serving the people and animals of Talbot County. I have a basic knowledge of business practices, regulations, budgets, and human resources.

**PRIORITIES:** The first priority of a school is to ensure that each student is proficient in "reading, writing, and arithmetic." Critical, rational thinking must be honed through thoughtful, open discussions. Civics should be taught so that students understand and appreciate our system of government and become good citizens who can contribute to our society. No student can be left behind.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** There must be a physical security system and adequate personnel to ensure that children can learn in a safe

environment. Rules must be enforced so that students and teachers can focus on education. The police back up this mission. Teachers may be the first to spot mental or emotional health problems, and they must work with parents and appropriate agencies to address them.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** Deficiencies and disparities in student preparedness need to be identified and addressed as quickly as possible in the first years of schooling. No student can successfully advance without a solid foundation, especially in reading and writing. COVID restrictions created a serious gap in the emotional and intellectual development of our children. A concerted effort must be made to "catch up."

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:** Talbot's Career and Technology Education website has a well-stated mission and an impressive number of programs. After talking to people in the community, it seems that the program falls short of expectations. I believe this kind of focused, interactive education is vital for our students and our community, and I will work to enhance accessibility and funding.

## Talbot County Board of Education District 4

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Emily Jackson**

No response received by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)

**Todd E. Svehla**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a parent of two boys who are in the Talbot County Public School System. I am very aware of the issues that are ongoing in our local schools. Additionally I have been a Police Officer for 16 years and have dealt with many issues involving the schools system, students, parents, teachers and administrators

**PRIORITIES:** Student Safety in one of my highest priorities. Violence in our county schools is completely out of control. Sheriff's Deputies are constantly responding to large violent fights within the school. Additionally I'm a huge supporter of Vocational Studies and want to try to expand students opportunities to enter the work force after graduation.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** As I described in the question above student safety is paramount from threats externally and internally. Students need to be held accountable for poor and bad behavior. Disrespect and fighting should not be tolerated. The school should be able to provide on site counseling for student who require immediate emotional or mental attention. And the parents MUST be notified and involved.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** There is no one size fits all in the educational system. Each student has strengths and weakness that need to be cultivated and guided. Not all students are collage material and that's ok. Some students are more task or hands on oriented in those cases a curriculum rooted in a specific skill set could provide that student with the same level of engagement as AP/CP Courses for collage focused stud

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:** Vocational Learning I think is very under rated. Students with collage in their future can take collage

courses in HS. Vocational Students should have the same opportunities in skills set. A vocational student should be able to graduate with a certification that allows them to enter the work force prior to graduation. I have more thoughts on this though not enough space to expand on here

## Talbot County Board of Education District 7

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

#### Deborah Bridges

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I grew up in the Military. I experienced many different schools and types of Education. I have owned and operated Swan Cove Flowers for 38 years. I have been a book keeper for 6 Corporations. I am experienced in budgets and audits. When my boys were in High School, I fought hard to keep St Michaels High School opened.

**PRIORITIES:** My Priorities if elected: Make all Schools Safe for all Students Improve Curriculum Implement Teaching Cursive Writing More Vocational& Technical Programs Improve Parental access to all aspects of Education Unite All Children Not Divide Better Communication between Schools, Teachers and Administration

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** I would like to have an Armed Sheriff in Every School. Our children are our most precious treasure and we must protect them! Start New Discipline Practices that are fair and equal to all. I will fight to protect our children from the WOKE Agenda that is permeating our Society and our

Schools. I Strongly feel our children should not be taught anything about sex before they are in 5th grade!

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** I think we need to go back to teaching and guiding students toward their life goals, not teaching them to pass standardized tests. There needs to be more Vocational and Technical classes for those students not going to College. I also think that All Students should be taught proper English and Grammar to prepare them for the work force and for life after school.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:** We need to teach classes like Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC, Automotive, etc. Part of the curriculum should allow students to apprentice at businesses for on the job training. We have such a worker shortage in this County, we need to prepare our Students for the Workforce and to become Productive Members of our Society.

#### Jay Hudson

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As an active and engaged parent I have volunteered for years in our local schools, including seat on the Tilghman Area Youth Association to the program Character Counts. Additionally, I have chaperoned field trips, helped with fundraising and volunteered where and when help was needed. My experience has inspired me to take the next step and help make a difference on a larger scale.

**PRIORITIES:** My priorities include but are not limited to, getting to know now my position so I am able to make the best of my term. As the world is changing, working to keep it relatable, navigable and manageable for students and teachers alike. Reengaging Parent and Guardian participation in school events.



**SCHOOL SAFETY:** As I said the world is changing and with that it brings about new concerns of school safety. Understanding the effects of this new environment is crucial to moving forward with programs and support. With the programs and support already in place, it is our job to help to redefine and refine these programs when necessary, to keep them relatable and effective.

**ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** Before Covid-19, the Achievement Gap was suggested by race. I am curious to see the results of this year's testing to see where that gap stands now. Understanding the benefits of tele-learning and developing a more cohesive and family friendly program is important to narrowing this gap. Internet accessibility is also a key factor in this. Finding the right help for those who are in need.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:** The development of Vocational programs is a must. College isn't for everyone and not to offer a path just as rich in resources as the college prep path is denying some students not only preparedness but also validity of their choice to move forward. This is an all hands on deck conversation on how we work together to make this happen.

## State Ballot Questions

### Question 1

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

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

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

#### **Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment**

**Current Law:** Under the Maryland Constitution, the highest court in Maryland is called the Court of Appeals, unlike many other states and the federal constitution, which refer to their highest court as the Supreme Court. Judges on the Court of Appeals are referred to as judges rather than justices, which is the title in states that call their highest court the Supreme Court. The Maryland Constitution also provides for a Court of Special Appeals, which hears most initial appeals from trial courts and whose decisions can be reviewed by the Court of Appeals if one of the parties appeals their decision.

**Proposed Change:** The name of the highest court in Maryland would be changed from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland and the judges on that court would

be referred to as justices. The current name of the Court of Special Appeals would be changed to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

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

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

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

#### **Arguments AGAINST the amendment:**

- Legal research is a highly specialized field and lawyers reviewing decisions of courts in other states are presumed to understand which court is the highest court.
- There would be administrative costs associated with changing the name of both courts, e.g., revising office letterhead, directory listings, etc.

**A Vote FOR Question 1 means** the Maryland Constitution will be amended to change the name of the highest court from

the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland and its judges will be called justices. The name of the Court of Special Appeals, the mid-level appellate court, will be changed to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

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

## Question 2

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

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

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

#### **Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment**

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

established. Residency can be established by maintaining a residence and staying there at least occasionally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Question 3

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

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

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

#### **Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment**

**Current Law:** Currently, either party to a civil lawsuit can ask for a jury trial if more than \$15,000 in damages is being sought. Civil cases in which less than \$30,000 is being sought are filed in District Court and are usually decided by a District Court judge. If more than \$15,000 is being sought and one side requests a jury trial, the case is moved to the Circuit Court, where all jury trials take place. Which Court hears the case affects discovery – the right to require the other side to present evidence before the trial to assist in preparing arguments. District Courts allow less discovery than Circuit Courts.

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

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

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

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

#### **Arguments AGAINST the amendment:**

- Limiting the right to a jury trial by raising the threshold to \$25,000 will be a disadvantage to defendants because more cases will be tried in the District Court, which has limited rights to discover evidence before trial.
- The right to a jury trial is an important right that should not be limited more than

necessary.

- Concerns about the costs of discovery would be better addressed by reforming discovery rules rather than limiting the right to a jury trial.

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

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

## **Question 4**

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

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

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

#### **Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment**

**Current Law:** Under current State law, possession of 10 grams (0.35 ounces) or more of marijuana is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. Possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana is a civil offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$100 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense, and \$500 for a third or subsequent

offense. Marijuana is listed on Schedule I under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

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

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

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

- Eighteen other jurisdictions, including Virginia and the District of Columbia, have legalized recreational cannabis use by adults.
- Maryland has had a medical cannabis program since 2014.
- About half of Maryland residents over the age of 18 admit to using marijuana at some point in their lives.
- Black Marylanders are more than twice as likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white Marylanders despite similar usage rates.
- Cannabis possession accounted for 57% of drug related arrests in Maryland in 2020

creating a burden for law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system.

- Prior offenders will be able to clear their records of cannabis convictions, improving their access to jobs, education, and housing.

#### **Arguments AGAINST the amendment:**

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

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

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

## Question 5

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

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

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

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

#### **Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment**

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

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

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

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

- Moving the orphan's court function to the Circuit Court will result in the cases being heard by judges with a professional legal background and more closely align with the practice in most other jurisdictions. Only Maryland and Alabama currently allow non-lawyers to serve as elected judges in non-routine or contested probate matters. All other states require such judges to be lawyers admitted to the bar, as do Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince Georges' County.
- The Circuit Court, sitting as an orphans' court, will be able to easily integrate the workload into its schedule and resolve the issues more efficiently. The Orphans' Court currently operates on a part-time basis, one day per week. The Circuit Court operates full-time, 5 days per week.
- The Maryland State Bar Association and most of the judicial reform commissions that have considered the matter have recommended the abolition of the Orphans'



Courts.

### Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Much of the work of the Orphans' Courts consists of approving a variety of orders dealing with the administration of estates that may not require the expertise of an attorney.
- More sweeping changes may make this amendment unnecessary. A 2021 Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans Courts made recommendations that are currently awaiting action by the Maryland General Assembly, and which would also require an amendment to the Maryland Constitution.

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

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

## Talbot County Ballot Questions

### Question A

#### Charter Amendment County Council Compensation

The County Charter currently sets compensation for members of the County Council at \$14,400 per year, with the President of the Council receiving an additional \$1,000 per year. The proposed Charter amendment authorizes an

increase in compensation for members of the County Council from \$14,400 per year to \$23,000 per year, with the President of the Council receiving an additional \$1,000 per year. If the proposed amendment is approved by the voters at the election, the increase in compensation authorized thereby shall become effective beginning with those members of the County Council taking office in December 2022. The proposed amendment shall have no effect on the compensation of the sitting Council.

### Vote FOR or AGAINST the Charter Amendment

**Current Law:** The Talbot County Charter defines the compensation of council members in Article II, Section 207 as follows: *Council members shall receive compensation of fourteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$14,400) per annum beginning with terms commencing in or after 2002. The President of the Council shall receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per annum.*

**Proposed Change:** The Charter would be amended to replace *fourteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$14,400)* with *twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000)* and to replace the year *2002* with *2022*.

**Origin of the Ballot Question:** A resolution to place questions on the ballot for the upcoming general election was submitted to the Council at the June 14, 2022 Council meeting. The proposal was in two parts: first, to increase member compensation from \$14,400 to \$25,000; and second, to allow the Council, by resolution, to change the compensation to be different from the amount

specified in the Charter. The resolution was introduced, numbered Resolution 332, and scheduled for a public hearing held on July 12, 2022 at which time it was amended to reduce the proposed amount of compensation for Council members from \$25,000 to \$23,000. No public comments were offered, and the amended resolution was adopted unanimously.

### Arguments FOR the Amendment:

- Council members devote on average 80 or more hours a month to performing their duties as County Council members, some of which time occurs during normal business hours. The Council members elected this November will be overseeing the FY 2023 budget of \$112.6 million. At the current level of compensation, members of Council are compensated at the rate of \$15 an hour; if the amendment is approved, the new rate would be just under \$24 an hour.
- Talbot County has the lowest level of compensation for county council/commissioners of all of Maryland's counties. Other counties on the Mid-Shore compensate their council/commissioners per year (and their FY 2023 Budgets) as follows: Caroline, \$15,000 (\$58.1 million); Dorchester: \$16,000 (\$70.2 million); Kent, \$20,000 (\$58.9 million); Queen Anne's: \$25,000 (\$171.4 million).
- The cost of living has risen approximately 61.02% since the compensation for Council-members was last changed in December of 2002. Raising Council compensation to \$23,000 per year from \$14,400 is a little less than the rise in the cost of living (\$23,184).
- The increase in compensation would have minimal impact on the budget, adding only

\$43,000 in expense to the annual budget, (\$112.6 million for FY 2023) which is less than .04% of the budget.

- Council members incur costs associated with taking time off from work, give up family time, and have little personal time for pursuing other opportunities. Increasing the compensation may encourage more people to run for County Council as the risk of losing personal opportunities and money while a member of the Council would be reduced.
- The current Council has won both local and national awards for the quality of work they do (MCAP, Community Vision and Value Award, 2022; NACo Achievement Award for County Resiliency, 2022). Increasing their compensation would be an acknowledgment of how we value what our Council members do for the County.

#### **Arguments AGAINST the Amendment:**

- Council members are passionate about their work for the county and serve regardless of the compensation offered.
- The increase in compensation would add a \$43,000 expense to the annual budget (\$112.6 million for FY 2023).

**A vote FOR Question A means** the Charter would be changed to increase the compensation of Council members to \$23,000 per annum and would take effect in December 2022 when the new Council is seated.

**A vote AGAINST Question A means** the Charter would not be changed and Council members seated in December 2022 would receive the mandated \$14,400 per annum, with an extra \$1,000 for the President of the Council.

## Question B

### **Charter Amendment County Council Compensation**

The County Charter currently sets compensation for members of the County Council at \$14,400 per year, with the President of the Council receiving an additional \$1,000 per year. The proposed Charter amendment authorizes the County Council to adopt a resolution setting compensation for members of the County Council and the President of the Council that differs from the compensation specified in the Charter; provided, however, that any such resolution shall require at least a four-fifths vote of the Council and must be adopted prior to the next general election for the office of Council member in order to become effective. The compensation set forth in the resolution would become effective beginning with those members of the County Council taking office after the next general election. The resolution would have no effect on the compensation of the sitting Council.

### **Vote FOR or AGAINST the Charter Amendment**

**Current Law:** The Talbot County Charter defines the compensation of council members in Article II, Section 207 as follows: *Council members shall receive compensation of fourteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$14,400) per annum beginning with terms commencing in or after 2002. The President of*

*the Council shall receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per annum.* The only way to change the compensation is to amend the Charter. To amend the Charter requires a three-step process: a resolution must be adopted by the Council to place a question on the ballot; the resolution must go through a public hearing and subsequent vote of the Council to place the resolution on the ballot for the next general election; and the ballot question must have a majority of voters vote in favor of it.

**Proposed Change:** The Charter would be amended to allow the County Council to approve a resolution to change the compensation of future Council members and the President of the Council if at least four-fifths of the Council were to support that change. The change in compensation would apply to the next Council to be seated and would not affect the compensation of the Council enacting the change. The Charter would be changed by adding the following sentence to the end of Article II, Section 207: *The Council may set, by resolution, compensation of Council members and the President of the Council differing from that set forth herein; provided, however, that such resolution shall require at least a four-fifths vote of the Council, be adopted prior to the next general election for the office of Council member, and take effect commencing with the forthcoming Council term.*

**Origin of the Ballot Question:** A resolution to place questions on the ballot for the upcoming general election was submitted to the Council at the June 14, 2022 Council meeting. The proposal was in two parts: first, to increase member compensation from \$14,400 to \$25, 000; and second, to allow

the Council, by resolution, to change the compensation to be different from the amount specified in the Charter. The resolution was introduced, numbered Resolution 332, and scheduled for a public hearing held on July 12, 2022 at which time it was amended to reduce the proposed amount of compensation for Council members from \$25,000 to \$23,000. No public comments were offered, and the amended resolution was adopted unanimously.

#### **Arguments FOR the Amendment:**

- Many jurisdictions do not define the compensation of their governing body in their governing documents; rather, they specify the process for setting or changing that compensation. The purpose of this resolution is to allow the Talbot County Council to use their knowledge of the budget and the amount of time and effort involved with being on the Council to inform the compensation process and to give them the flexibility to change the

level of compensation through a resolution, instead of amending the Charter each time a change were needed.

- The amendment is written to reduce the self-interest of a sitting Council when voting to change the compensation, as any change would apply not to the sitting Council, but to the next incoming Council.
- The amendment is written to limit the Council in changing the compensation by requiring at least four-fifths of the full Council to approve any change, thus insuring that any such change would not be taken lightly.

#### **Arguments AGAINST the Amendment:**

- This change would reduce the efficiency of Talbot County voters in overseeing the compensation of its county executives; citizens would need to take a more active role in the legislative process by tracking public hearings to be able to provide comments prior to any final vote by the

Council instead of simply casting a vote on a general election ballot question.

- This change would make it difficult for Talbot County citizens to reverse or otherwise change a Council resolution on compensation once it had been duly adopted. To return control over Council compensation to the public would require another change to the Charter.

**A vote FOR Question B means** the Charter would be changed to allow the incoming Council to change the compensation of the members of the Council and of the President of the Council for a Council which would be seated in 2026 or later if four-fifths of the full Council were to agree to that change.

**A vote AGAINST Question B means** the Charter would not be changed and changes to compensation for County Council members and the President of the Council would continue to be made by amending the County Charter.



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