



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

2022 Gubernatorial General Election Voters' Guide for Dorchester County

November 8, 2022

[last updated September 22, 2022]

About This *Voters' Guide*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Three Ways to Vote

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

Vote by Mail-In Ballot

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

Request an application for a mail-in Ballot

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

Return your application to your local Board of Elections

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

DORCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

County Office Building
501 Court Lane, Room 105
P.O. Box 414
Cambridge MD 21613-0414
410-228-2560, Fax: 410-228-9635
www.dorcomdelections.org
Email Address:
Gwendolyn.dales@maryland.gov

The deadline to return your application varies

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

➔ **by mail or fax, deliver by
TUESDAY, NOV 1.**

- via the internet, deliver by **FRIDAY, NOV 4.**
- pick up in person, deliver by **TUESDAY, NOV 8.**

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

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

DORCHESTER COUNTY BALLOT DROP-BOXES 2 Locations:

Dorchester County Office Building (Lobby),
501 Court Ln, Cambridge MD

Veterans Memorial Park, 204 South Main St,
Hurlock 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:

Dorchester County Office Building Lobby,
501 Court Ln, Cambridge MD

Vote in Person on Election Day

Tuesday, Nov 8, 7 am to 8 pm

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

For More Information

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

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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

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

Check both sides of your ballot for additional races.

While we have included write-in candidates known at the time of our publication deadline, **write-in**

candidates can file until Oct 20 to be included in the official vote count.

We recommend you check the lists of certified write-in candidates listed in your sample ballot, at your local election board office, and posted at all voter centers to verify certified candidates.

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

Only candidate information available at the time of our publication deadline is included here. For more up-to-date information, go to 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

QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Dan Cox / Gordana Schifanelli
Republican

Campaign Website:
www.coxforfreedom.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wes Moore / Aruna Miller
Democratic**

Campaign Website: www.WesMoore.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**David Lashar / Christiana Logansmith
Libertarian**

Campaign Website: davidlashar.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Nancy Wallace / Patrick Elder
Green**

Campaign Website: wallaceforgovernor.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

education on minimum mowing, and restoring the Bay.

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

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

David Harding / Cathy White Working Class

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kyle Sefcik / Katie Lee Write In

Campaign Website: www.KyleSefcik.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maryland Comptroller

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

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARIES: \$150,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

WEBSITE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brooke Elizabeth Lierman
Democratic
Campaign Website:
www.brookelierman.com

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

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

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

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

Maryland Attorney General

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

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$150,000 .

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

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

QUESTIONS

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

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

efficiency and fairness of legal processes in Maryland?

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

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

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

CONSUMER PROTECTION: Describe your approach to consumer protection.

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Michael Anthony Peroutka
Republican

Campaign Website: patriots4peroutka.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anthony G. Brown
Democratic

Campaign Website: anthonybrown.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. Senator

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

TERM: Six years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$174,000.

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

WEBSITE: senate.gov/

QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

IMMIGRATION: What changes would you propose in immigration policy?

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

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Chris Chaffee

No response by our print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Chris Van Hollen
Democratic

Campaign Website: www.vanhollen.org

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

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

COURT SYSTEM: An independent judiciary made up of diverse voices is a key element of democracy and freedoms. We need to preserve and protect it from those trying to

undermine the Constitutional rights it aims to safeguard. I'm working to confirm federal judges with an unwavering commitment to protecting Americans' rights and freedoms and delivering equal justice under the law.

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

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

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

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

expand community violence prevention programs, and pass my legislation for stronger oversight enhancing gun safety.

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

Scottie Griffin
Write In

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Representative in Congress

Congressional District 1

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

TERM: Two years.

SALARY: \$174,000.

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based

on the state's population in the 2020 Census.

WEBSITE: house.gov

QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

IMMIGRATION: What changes would you propose in immigration policy?

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

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Andy Harris
Republican

Campaign Website: andyharris.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heather R. Mizeur
Democratic

Campaign Website: heathermizeur.com

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

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

COURT SYSTEM: We must remove partisan politics from the judicial system and restore America's confidence in the impartiality of federal courts. I support exploring required term limits for federal judges and SCOTUS justices as well as expanding judicial ethics requirements and extending them to the high

court. I am open to any dialogue that finds consensus on reforms to assure the independence of the courts.

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

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

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

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: My top priority as your Congresswoman will always be the economy first -- leading conversations and driving policy solutions that will keep our economy vibrant and strong. That starts with tackling inflation,

lowering taxes for middle class families and small business owners, and creating more good-paying jobs. You can read my robust 33-page EconomyFirst plan, a blueprint for action, on my website.

Daniel Frank Thibeault
Libertarian

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Maryland State Senate

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

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

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

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

WEBSITE: msa.maryland.gov/msa/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.

QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER PRIORITIES: What other issues are priorities for you?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Johnny Mautz
Republican

Campaign Website: johnnymautz.com

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

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 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

House of Delegates 37A

HOW ELECTED: District 37A includes parts of Dorchester and Wicomico Counties. Qualified voters in District 37A cast votes for 1 candidate.

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 1

Donna Bradshaw
Republican

Campaign Website: donnafordelegate.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I believe that running a business and homeschooling my children has taught me the art of juggling and time management and prioritizing. My experience in politics comes from my husbands 8 years as a councilman in Dorchester County, which taught me innumerable things about government and how it works. It also solidified my position on ethical behavior in government and how important that is.

ECONOMIC INEQUITIES: We should be looking at cutting the gas tax, finding affordable energy sources, creating educational opportunities for the unemployed and under-employed and considering tax credits for seniors to help them remain in their homes and not have to choose between medication and food.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I support law enforcement and the rule of law. we have tied the hands of our police departments causing crime to escalate. We need to re-examine some of the laws enacted more recently and have the officers give us a first hand account of how these laws have helped or hurt the effort to put criminals behind bars.

EDUCATION: There needs to be a statewide effort to give parents an equal level of control over what and how their children are taught. There should be a common sense approach to what information children need at what age that should not be determined by bureaucrats. I would work to increase rural broadband access that seems to have stalled recently.

HEALTH: It would appear that drug addiction and suicide are the greatest challenges we face today. I would like to see stiffer penalties for drug trafficking. I would work to increase resources for mental health issues and make drug addiction rehabilitation more easily accessible.

NATURAL RESOURCES: I believe that more cooperation is needed between the state legislators and our natural resource stewards - watermen, farmers and loggers to pass bills that actually make sense without overcomplicating the issue or pandering to special interests. This specialized group of business folks know what is necessary to keep these resources viable and I want to be the voice for them.

LOCAL PROJECTS: I want to enact legislation that will free up more money for our entrepreneurs/small businesses. We need to make start-up money available for individuals to create futures for themselves and jobs for the communities they serve.

OTHER PRIORITIES: I will work to court industry to create jobs and increase our tax base. I would work with community colleges and Boards of education to enhance and create better workforce training. We must look at the regulations currently discouraging industries from locating here and find suitable compromises to make us more attractive in the business sector.

Sheree Sample-Hughes

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

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

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 health providers concerns with funding in an all payer system must be acknowledged and commitment to fully fund rural health 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

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

Dorchester County Offices

Dorchester County Council

DUTIES: Under the Charter Home Rule form of government, the County Council may enact local laws, ordinances and/or policies. Certain types of laws cannot be enacted by the Council and must be enacted by the State legislature. Dorchester County is one of nine counties in the State of Maryland that are governed under Charter Home Rule.

BASE SALARY: \$16,000

TERM: Four years.

HOW ELECTED: Council members are elected from county council districts.

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?

TRANSPARENCY: What, if anything, would you do to improve citizen access to council meetings and to non-confidential documents used to make council decisions?

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: Please explain your views on the role the county manager should play in managing the county.

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

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

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: Explain how you will address climate change and sustainability in our county.

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

Dorchester County Council Dist. 1

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Rob Kramer, Jr.
Republican

No response received by print deadline; check Vote411.org

Jay Leonard Newcomb
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I am now serving on the County Council for my 16th year of which several years have served as president. Own and operate 3 successful corporations. Have served on council in very hard budget terms. Have only missed 2 council meeting in the 16 years serving on the council along with so many other meeting and events that have taken place. Take pride in this county and it's resources that we have.

BUDGET: My priorities are to first stay within the county budget, Not too have to increase taxes, but to keep the county in a stable operating budget. We must also increase salaries to have a very good working and stable work force. This county is very large and have a lot of road, ditches to maintain. Also the 911 departments are short on

employees with the pay offered from other wealthy counties.

PRIORITIES: To continue to stay within our budget and means and to provide the best serves to the residents and taxpayers of this county. We must hopefully improve our grades within our school system. This county is looked at by our school system, workforce and crime, which all need great improvement. Money isn't just the answer, we need more accountability to help with these issues. Better education is need

TRANSPARENCY: I have been in person and conducted all council meeting in person in the council's meeting room. The agenda is posted and minutes posted as soon as the staff gets them written and approved by the council. Myself have always welcome to discuss the agenda items before and during the meeting. Internet needs to be much better in the rural parts of the county before we go live with the meeting.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: The county manager should operate the county in a professional day to day manner. Help and work with the several department heads to provide the best service available to the people of this county. This is a very demanding position that most people don't realize the hours it takes to manage the employees, taxpayers and guest that are in this county. The county Manager must also live in the county

PUBLIC HEALTH: Moving and downsizing our hospital is paying a toll on on our residents and the county EMS system. With having such a large county and travel time to transport to a hospital the Golden Hour is very important. The travel and wait time at the hospitals are taking longer. We also much improve our County Health Department. The building

needs much renovations and improving to meet the growing demands.

EMPLOYMENT: Better education and correcting the crime and drug problems that consist in this county. People that finally come and see this great county we had, surely fall in love with it. We have the resources and infrastructure but not the workforce. Tourism is another great resource that we have in this county. We must maintain the resources that our farmers and watermen bring and provide to the economy.

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: We must do the best we can to operate the county off of green resources to same this great county we have. Solar, recycling and all we can do is very important at this time on this planet. Need to be better on the fuel that we use in this county that could be curved back to provide the same level of service.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: With the housing market as it is today housing is paying a toll on residents to try and find a place to buy or rent in this county with the prices they cost. We need to continue to look at affordable housing, but at the same time not to put a burden on the education system and government agencies which will put more cost to everyone living here. Also hopefully will provide a better workforce.

Dorchester County Council Dist. 2

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

William V. Nichols
Democratic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Dorchester County Council Dist. 3

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

John Edward James, Jr.
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Ricky C. Travers
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I have currently held this office for the past 17 years, starting in September of 2005 to the current term. I have had the honor of being president of the board for 4 of those years, 2014 to 2018. As owner and manager of my own business I feel

this gives me great insight into contributing to managing and growing our county. Over the years I have worked on 16 budgets with the current one being 7

BUDGET: My budget priorities begin with our local law enforcement. Next on my priorities is our counties emergency services. Broad band access is next on my budget priorities.

Another priority if I am reelected will be education. Comparable salaries with our surrounding counties are also a priority during this election.

PRIORITIES: My priorities for the next four years are to obtain a strong county manager and to insure we start to rebuild the partnerships that this county so badly needs. I will also focus on filling many vital county positions.

TRANSPARENCY: When it comes to transparency in our county meetings, I would like to see all council meetings to be available online with the best technologies for those who are unable to attend. There needs to be consistency on posting all available jobs and non-certified documents on our web site.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: The county manager, according to the charter, should have all department heads answer to that position. The county manager then answers to the council and the council must go through the county manager to the department heads. The manager manages the counties day to day functions.

PUBLIC HEALTH: My priorities for supporting the public health system are that there needs to be more available tele medicine for our rural areas. There also needs to be the newest technology available to our area as well. Public health has been through the most trying times recently, with that being said we need to make sure we are using all federal and state programs that are available to us.

EMPLOYMENT: To encourage economic development, I currently support the recruitment of new businesses and the retainment of current businesses. There also needs to be a continued push for economic development in our communities to provide jobs on all levels.

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: When it comes to addressing climate change and sustainability in our county, I feel that the current federal and state programs that we have through planning and zoning to deal with some of the issues are very effective. These include raising houses to shoreline erosion control.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: As for affordable housing we need to continue using every resource available to us through the many state and federal programs. Habitat for Humanity, Maryland Department of Housing as well as many others have made major investments in our county.

We must work on ways to recruit and retain employees which means we need to look at salaries of surrounding counties that continue to get some of our best employees due to higher wages.

PRIORITIES: We must find ways to Recruit quality employees, and more importantly Retain the excellent employees we currently have. We need to find ways to increase our tax base without increasing our tax rates.

TRANSPARENCY: I have tried numerous times to have our meetings available to view Live or at a citizens convenience on the Internet, but have lost those motions by a 3 to 2 vote. I will continue to work to have meetings available to those who cannot make it in person.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: The County Manager runs the day to day operations of the County Government, not the Council. The Council gives direction to the County Manager on their goals for how the government should run based on the wants and needs of their constituents.

PUBLIC HEALTH: The County Health Department is actually a Maryland State Agency that the County has no control over. The County works with the Health Officer to share the priorities of the Council with Health Department Staff. We are still dealing with the COVID virus, so testing and vaccinations are the priority currently.

EMPLOYMENT: I feel the Council should be flexible when searching for new business, and dealing with prospective companies looking at coming to our County. We need to ensure our School System is preparing our students to be a valuable work force for business looking to expand in our area.

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: Erosion and high tides are issues that Dorchester County has been dealing with for decades. We need

Dorchester County Council Dist. 4

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Lenny Pfeffer
Republican

Campaign Website: www.lennypfeffer.com

QUALIFICATIONS: Having served in this position for the past 3.5 years, I feel I have learned a great deal that will help me if elected for a second term.

BUDGET: I try to prioritize ways to give citizens the most services that we can afford.

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to continue working with our State and Federal Governments to find money and solutions that will work.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: We need to work with our State and Federal Governments to find ways of building new housing, and rehabilitating older housing. Our municipalities need to work hard to find solutions with us considering they have a more dense population than the rural areas of the county.

Dorchester County Council Dist. 5

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Mike Detmer
Republican

Campaign Website:
detmerfordorchester.com

QUALIFICATIONS: My military experience taught me about leadership and mission accomplishment, my time in education gave me experience in effective communication and connecting with people, and my role as a journalist has familiarized me with the current situation in county government and elsewhere in Dorchester while allowing me to establish working relationships throughout the county and beyond.

BUDGET: A retired county employee describe the three ways to do things: 1) the right way, 2) the wrong way, and 3) the county way. The county way means stretching limited funding and resources to give residents of the county the service they deserve. In addition

to being good stewards of what we have, the county council must find where external help is needed and then go get that help.

PRIORITIES: The top priorities are ensuring public safety, advancing healthy and effective county government, and being ready for future challenges and opportunities. Public safety includes adequate funding and support for police, and fire and ambulance services. Effective government is transparency and equipping and empowering talented public servants. Both are key for being ready for the future.

TRANSPARENCY: Live online broadcasts (and accessibility of video archives) of public meetings of the council and county boards is an immediate necessity. Public documents pertinent to upcoming meetings should be available to the public for review on the county's website and through subscription to an email list. The availability should be timely to ensure public servants and citizens can review all items.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: An organization of the size and scope of Dorchester County government must have an executive (and executive staff) capable and empowered to make day-to-day decisions according to clear guidelines and expectations established by the council. There must be a clear procedure for council members to get information or action to address their concerns or those of their constituents and county residents.

PUBLIC HEALTH: The drug crisis and deaths from overdoses must addressed. Drugs are too readily available, treatment is adequate, and many lack hope. Our public health system should also encourage individual person health through encouraging more healthy, locally grown food, as well as increased availability of exercise and active recreation through county parks and programs.

EMPLOYMENT: The county council must do everything possible to support proper and adequate education for children that leads into fostering a robust workforce. With a good pool of employees, improved availability of housing, proximity to large cities, and a beautiful county full of great people means that a business friendly county council can expect to see good commercial growth.

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: Some work has been done to study and plan for shoreline resiliency, but the entire county needs a prompt and thorough assessment. As the whole picture of direct threats posed to the physical land and communities in the county are better understood, the county must work with locals and external partners to take effective action. The county is sinking and washing away, we have to act!

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Dorchester County does not have enough housing stock, including reasonable and decent rental units, entry-level housing, or mid-level housing. The county council must encourage the creation of more housing by working with those seeking to build, while ensuring that new development does not damage the local environment or overload existing public service infrastructure (roads, schools, etc.).

Zia Ashraf
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: My Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and now as student of law have given me good foundation to understand and write the laws for the benefit of citizens. Also, my prior experiences such as working on political campaigns and my internship experiences both in Annapolis and Washington D.C have given me well-rounded exposure

and experience to understand the working of government.

BUDGET: For county budget, I would ensure that everybody would get equal amount of raise across the board, address the pressing issues such as worker shortage to come up with a incentive plan for new hires, board of education issues, and healthcare needs.

PRIORITIES: 1) Having a full-time county manager 2) Accountable government meaning transforming our government to 21st century innovations such as electronic friendly 3) Broadband internet for rural part of the county 4) Helping our farmers, small businesses, and watermen for a friendly economic growth considering environmental challenges

TRANSPARENCY: Making sure the council meetings are live stream electronically. All the constituents should have excess to meeting agenda electronically beforehand and council should seek a general input on a pressing issue which could be crucial for the residents of the county. Also, making sure that all the council members have office hours where they can be accessible by their constituents. Also, creating a c

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: I think county manager should be supervising all the departments of the county and should seek council input if any conflicting issues. Also, ensuring a safe and healthy work environment and basically supervising day to day operations of the county.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Provide the necessary funding so that our healthcare system should be upgraded and ensuring good wages so healthcare workers can be retained and providing enough services in new Cambridge hospital, so that residents do not have to drive to surrounding counties in case of emergency.

EMPLOYMENT: More investment from big companies that can boom our economy without affecting our local small business. Also, focusing on tourism because Ocean City traffic can be a good source for booming our local economy by advertising local and unique spots throughout the economy. Additionally working with our farmers and watermen to thrive their businesses.

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: Aggressively seeking grants from State and Federal Governments. Also, trying to launch a local campaign to educate our residents about this issue in a no-partisan way. Also, encouraging renewable energy resources and incentive without jeopardizing our farmers, small businesses, and watermen. Making sure that how renewable energy can meet their professional needs without negatively impacting them.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Making sure that everyone is getting fair evaluation for their property and also trying to subsidizing some of the fees and taxes for large builders that can provide affordable and equal housing needs for our residents.

David W. Beverley, 2nd
Unaffiliated

Campaign Website:
dorchesterindependent.org

QUALIFICATIONS: My Job experience in multiple communities around the state, providing Emergency Medical Services and serving as a professional Fire Fighter , has taught me the importance of being able to make quick decisions in life-threatening situations and how to be a leader who is able to hear the opinions of those around me and include those opinions, in-process

BUDGET: Being a small business owner of two small hotels/bed and breakfast i have great insight on the importance of a balanced budget. 3 priorities would be more funding for our sheriffs office to provide better coverage in the county Improve our EMS system and provide broader coverage and improve our public schools/buildings and retain our great teachers and pay them fair compensation.

PRIORITIES: Providing Broadband internet coverage to all the underserved community's here in Dorchester. Promote farming and the importance of small local farms providing high quality clean food to Dorchester county residents. supporting our tourism and its economic importance. promoting and preserving Dorchester county's heritage on all levels.

TRANSPARENCY: i would continue supporting live streaming the council meetings online i would make the councils non-confidential documents available online.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: Managing day to day operations of county government. Ensuring that all laws and provisions of the county's charter are executed.

PUBLIC HEALTH: I would like to see a hospital with inpatient beds brought back to Dorchester county, i also would like to see more medical facility's especially where parts of the county do not have a single doctors office. I would like to see more women health facility's especially in north Dorchester County where there is none and there is no accesses to plan parenthood.

EMPLOYMENT: i support tax incentives and grants for small locally owned business less regulations on farmers and watermen supporting up and coming young entrepreneurs and farmers to keep Dorchester's farming community's thriving.

CLIMATE / SUSTAINABILITY: I think its best that "the government" should stay out of the majority of such efforts. They should heed the recommendations of private property owners. The recommendations of the people dealing with the changes in the water levels rising, land erosion and weather events will have the best recommendations for the county council to implement to combat climate change.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Housing can not be provided by the government over regulation and the " Smart Growth " policy's the county has adopted forces people to build in areas designated for growth and by doing so allows land owners to charge a premium which means builders will raise house prices. To increase availability of affordable housing we lower cost and work with builders to do so.

Dorchester County Judge of the Circuit Court - Circuit 1

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

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

SALARY: \$174,433.

HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide. The state is divided into 8 Judicial Circuits. When there is a vacancy, the Governor appoints a person to fill the office from a list recommended by a judicial nominating commission. The nominating commission

reviews each applicant's experience as an attorney before making recommendations to the Governor . Each newly appointed judge must stand for election at the first election that occurs at least one year after the vacancy happened. Sitting judges must also run for re-election after serving for 15 years. Attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar may also run to challenge a newly appointed or sitting judge. All candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots.

WEBSITE:

msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/31cc/html/ccf.html

QUESTIONS

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

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

MOTIVATION: What inspires you to serve in this judgeship?

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: What is your judicial philosophy?

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

William H. Jones

QUALIFICATIONS: I have served my community as a volunteer firefighter (joining

at 16 years old), EMT and police officer. I was born here, grew up here, and know the area and people. My legal experience includes private practice, government service, litigation, transactional work, criminal, civil, prosecution, and defense. That prepares me for the varied matters that I will have the opportunity to experience.

PRIORITIES: It is important to ensure a smooth transition within the courthouse. I want to identify things that can be done to institute certain efficiencies within our local court. And I want to make sure that it is a place where people enjoy working and is a welcome place for visitors and those having business with the court.

COURT SYSTEM: As a result of the pandemic, the backlog of cases is a real issue. The courts must be flexible and willing to work hard to clear out that backlog. Also, it's very important that people know that their voices will be heard and that they feel that they are treated fairly. The need for equity is real ...both in reality and perception.

MOTIVATION: I have worked my whole life in positions where I had the opportunity to have a positive impact in people's lives. I intend to continue that in this role as a judge. As well, I intend to use this position to help make my community a great place to live and work.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: A judge is a neutral arbiter, akin to a baseball umpire. Judges should not steer cases in a certain direction. I will strive to ensure that the rights of all are protected. I will utilize my knowledge of the law, experience and common sense to make fair and just decisions.

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large

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

SALARY: \$183,633

TERM: Ten years, no term limit.

Mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

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

QUESTIONS

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this office?

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

MOTIVATION: What inspires you to serve in this judgeship?

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: What is your judicial philosophy?

CANDIDATES

Vote Yes or No for Continuance in Office

Stuart R. Berger

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Terrence M. R. Zic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Dorchester County State's Attorney

DUTIES: The State's Attorney prosecutes and defends, on the part of the State, all criminal cases in Dorchester 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

Amanda Rae Leonard
Republican

Campaign Website:
LEONARDFORDORCHESTER.COM

QUALIFICATIONS: My entire prosecuting career has been in Dorchester County. Over

the past almost 6 years, I've been able to develop strong relationships with law enforcement and other partner agencies, which is crucial for strong prosecution. In addition, as the current interim State's Attorney, I'm the only candidate with the administrative experience of managing the Dorchester State's Attorney's Office.

PRIORITIES: Public safety is the top priority. I believe it can be achieved by a more proactive response to stopping crime in our community through collaborative efforts amongst the State's Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, allied agencies, and engaged community members. Dorchester has been my home my entire life, and I want it to continue to be a safe and desirable place to live and work.

DISCRIMINATION: A major tenet of not just my campaign, but my prosecution style is to commit to an individualistic approach to all cases. I understand that no two matters bring forth the same set of circumstances, evidence, or contextual background. By avoiding blanket style prosecution, and addressing each case for what it brings individually, I believe bias can be avoided.

SENTENCING: Cases that involve habitual offenders, violent offenses, or blatant disregard for the safety of Dorchester citizens are those that warrant a tough on crime approach. However, there are many cases presented where justice and deterrence of repeated crimes can be achieved with alternatives such as drug treatment or mental health counseling. All options should be considered in case review.

Dorchester County 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

Amy J. Craig
Republican

Campaign Website: amyjcraig.com

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a 3-term elected Clerk of the Circuit Court with 37 years of legal experience and training as well as a Master's in Social Work. My career and passion centers around the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice to those served by the Circuit Court for Dorchester County. I have and will continue to serve all of Dorchester County in my position as your Clerk.

PRIORITIES: My biggest priority is serving the citizens of Dorchester County and those who enter the Circuit Court. We strive to give customers resources to assist with their situation. My office will continue to process all court cases in a timely manner, making sure hearings are scheduled accordingly. Within land records and licensing, we will ensure records and applications are processed with expediency.

AREAS OF NEED: With the increasing conversion of court records into an electronic format, it is my duty to increase public access so that those seeking the information recorded and filed within the Circuit Court is available. It is highly important to me that my staff continue professional training and development so they may effectively and efficiently serve our customers.

Dorchester 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

Carla Spear
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Terry Dayton Wheatley Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: Have worked in the legal field since 1972. 25 years with Senator Fred Malkus-13 years as his administrative assistance. 3 years with the law firm of Wilson & Collison. 7 years as Deputy Register of Wills under Doris K. Lewis. 10 years as Chief Deputy Register of Wills. Appointed Register of Wills by the Judges of the Orphans' Court on November 3, 2020 upon the death of Mrs. Lewis till present.

PRIORITIES: To continue with the honesty, integrity, compassion and confidentiality of the office. Meeting the sympathetic needs of families/friends at a painful time in their lives.

AREAS OF NEED: I have excellent employees in the office that do a great job serving the public and do not see any need for any changes. My office does not make policy but we must carry out the rules and regulations regarding the Estates and Trusts Articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Dorchester 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: In Dorchester County, there are two Orphans' Court districts: District 1 and District 2. These districts are determined by Maryland state legislative districts: District 37A and 37B. Qualified voters in Dorchester County District 37A elect one Judge of the Orphans' Court in District 1. Qualified voters in Dorchester County District 37B elect two Judges of the Orphans' Court in District 2.

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?

Dorchester County Judge of the Orphans' Court Dist. 1

HOW ELECTED: Elected by qualified voters within Orphans' Court District 1 which corresponds to Legislative District 37A within Dorchester County. Qualified

voters within District 1 cast votes for one candidate.

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

George Robert Ames, Jr.
Democratic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Dorchester County Judge of the Orphans' Court Dist. 2

HOW ELECTED: Elected by qualified voters within Orphans' Court District 2 which corresponds to Legislative District 37B within Dorchester County. Qualified voters within District 2 cast votes for two candidates.

CANDIDATES

Vote for up to 2

Bernie Dryden
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: My experience and education have prepared me well for the duties of this position. I spend 30 years in law enforcement, both at the local and federal levels. This exposed me to an abundant amount of in-court time. I have a degree in

the Administration of Justice from American University.

PRIORITIES: My priority is to continue the good work of this court in a fair and impartial manner. These are stressful and sometimes emotional times for families involved in these legal processes. A fair but gentle hand is sometimes needed to move these cases along to a just conclusion.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: My judicial philosophy is to apply the existing statutes, rules of the court, and applicable regulations to the unique set of circumstances presented to the court in each case. This ensures fairness to all parties involved.

MOTIVATION: I have always supported community involvement and public service. I coached youth sports and joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I also joined my local volunteer fire company soon after arriving in the county, ultimately becoming Chief. I am a current Firefighter/EMT. I am a member of the Dorchester County Ethics Commission. This judicial position is an extension of my community involvement.

Rick Price
Republican

QUALIFICATIONS: BA Degree-Salisbury State /AA Degree-Chesapeake College/12 years on the Dorchester County Council/3 years on the Dorchester Commission On Aging/3 years on the Dorchester Library Board of Directors/2 time President of North Dorchester Jaycees

PRIORITIES: To learn the duties and responsibilities of the position and do the best job I can.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: To be fair and empathetic to all those who come before the Judges of Orphans Court.

MOTIVATION: To serve the public and Dorchester County.

Calvin Travers
Democratic

QUALIFICATIONS: I have been in public office for 59 years, 29 of those years as a Judge of the Orphans court and 28 of those as Chief Judge. I have made many connections with our community and will continue to support them.

PRIORITIES: My priority for this office is to guide and help people when they are in need after losing a loved one.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: My judicial philosophy is that there is equality for all when dealing with the closing of estates.

MOTIVATION: Twenty-nine years ago, I was appointed to this position by the governor of Maryland. I would like to continue to serve as Judge of the Orphans Court to support this community in their time of need.

Dorchester 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: \$103,253

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

James W. Phillips, Jr.
Republican

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

LeRoi Robinson-Grant
Democratic

No response received by print deadline;
check Vote411.org

Dorchester County Board of Education

DUTIES: The Board of Education is responsible for the supervision of the public schools, including the selection of a Superintendent, approval of the annual budget, and establishing general policies governing the school system.

BASE SALARY: \$3,200 annual salary.

TERM: Four years, limited to three consecutive terms.

HOW ELECTED: Board members are elected from councilmanic districts.

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?

Dorchester County Board of Education District 2

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

LeOtha N. Hull

QUALIFICATIONS: I worked in various schools in Dorchester County for thirty-eight years. Eight of those years were as a teacher, and thirty years as a school administrator. In addition, I am a present Board of Education Member, seeking re-election. I am very aware of the needs of our schools and teachers.

PRIORITIES: We need to attract, hire and retain good and qualified staff and teachers for our schools. As a Board of Education Member, we hear the needs of our schools and teachers, and make decisions to provide for those needs. We also visit our schools, to see how things are operating.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Our county has Police Resource Officers assigned to our schools, for safety reasons. In addition, we have School Nurses assigned to our schools. Recently, we acquired Weapons Detection Systems for some of our schools, with the plan to have them in all of our schools. School safety is primary.

ACHIEVEMENT GAP: We must continue to search and acquire books and materials that are on each students' achievement level. Teachers and supervisors must work on grouping students so they can best learn and achieve what is being taught and presented to them, with less or no difficulty.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Our County is fortunate to have a Career and Technology School, to help students for careers and employment. This school has the qualified staff to prepare students for careers and employment, with the courses being taught and presented.

Theresa E. Stafford

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a retired public school administrator with 37 years experience as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal and central office supervisor.

Experience in curriculum development, evaluation of administrators, certified and support staff at all levels. I hold 12 MSDE certification endorsements K-12 grade including Superintendent I/II, special education, pupil personnel, and counselor

PRIORITIES: Transparency/relationships--improve communication with clear and concise real time information. Improved web page. Let'sTalk page. Support: Staff need the tools and support to do the job we are asking of them. Increase support from the central office not more work for school staff. Accountability: create a climate of accountability for families and system staff. Use data to drive decisions.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Involve all school community partners. When children and adults feel safe, school becomes a place where people want to be. Build partnerships with mental health providers to provide services for both children, staff, and families. Adequately fund what we say are priorities, and safe schools are a top priority. Reduce stress for teachers addressing their mental and emotional health. Retreats.

ACHIEVEMENT GAP: First we must accept our data and not make excuses for the data. Hire an independent party to analyze our data. Fund programs that show evidence of closing the achievement gap. Look analytically at the data require the development and implementation of measurable strategies and goals to change the data. Reduce class sizes and provide additional support in all high poverty elementary classrooms.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Employers are beginning to put less emphasis on a college degree and more emphasis on skills. A 4 period day allows high school students to be dual completers--completing both a college prep program and a vocational program. Too many seniors are allowed to take two classes and leave school while we are closing vocational programs at DCTC. Begin career exploration in elementary schools.

Dorchester County Board of Education District 4

CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

Sheri Robinson Hubbard

QUALIFICATIONS: I spent 42 years in education, as a secondary English and reading teacher, a literacy coach, and an administrator. Being so involved with education, I had unique insights as to what was important for students, parents, and teachers. Bringing those experiences with me to serve on the Board of Education the last 4

years has been beneficial and will help me to continue serving Dorchester families.

PRIORITIES: Student and teacher safety is one of my top priorities, which is why I voted to increase safety protocols in schools and will continue to focus on it. Attracting and keeping high quality teachers is a top priority to ensure our students get the best possible teaching staff. I want to focus on student achievement. We lost ground during the pandemic and work needs to be done to overcome that loss.

SCHOOL SAFETY: I want to increase mental health professionals in our schools, as well as adding programs to help students and teachers overcome hurdles faced. There needs to be staff development that addresses behavior interventions in the classroom and to partner teachers with mental health professionals. Additionally, more weapons detector systems and school resource officers are needed.

ACHIEVEMENT GAP: It is imperative to focus on attracting minority staff so our students see themselves in teaching and counseling positions. We need to increase community outreach to increase parent and community participation in the schools. I would like to develop a mentor program with the goal of increasing minority student attendance and achievement. I would also like to increase minority parent involvement

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Students should be surveyed as to their post high school goals and as to the kinds of programs they most want to engage with in the school of technology to help prepare them. Additionally, the community should be surveyed as to its needs. What kinds of skills do they have need of now and in the future. It is our job to provide education that will meet those needs.

Meghan B. McCarter

No response by our print deadline;
check Vote411.org

State Ballot Questions

Question 1

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

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

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

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: Under the Maryland Constitution, the highest court in Maryland is

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

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

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

Arguments FOR the amendment:

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

current name of the highest court in Maryland, might be misunderstood as referring to a decision of a mid-level appellate court, instead of the highest court.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

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

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

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

Question 2

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

Adds to the eligibility requirements to serve as a senator or a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly by requiring a person to have maintained a primary

place of abode in the district that the person has been chosen to represent.

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

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Question 3

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

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

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

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

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

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

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

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Raising the dollar threshold for requesting a jury trial is necessary from time to time to keep up with rising costs.
- Preparing a case for decision by a District Court judge is less expensive for plaintiffs (the party initiating the lawsuit) and

defendants.

- Jury trials take more time and require more court resources than non-jury trials, therefore, increasing the threshold for jury trials would save taxpayers money because there would be fewer jury trials.
- More cases could be resolved quickly because a decision by a judge is less time consuming than a jury trial.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

- Limiting the right to a jury trial by raising the threshold to \$25,000 will be a disadvantage to defendants because more cases will be tried in the District Court, which has limited rights to discover evidence before trial.
- The right to a jury trial is an important right that should not be limited more than necessary.
- Concerns about the costs of discovery would be better addressed by reforming discovery rules rather than limiting the right to a jury trial.

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

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

Question 4

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

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

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

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

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

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

Origin of the Ballot Question: The Legislature passed cannabis reform legislation (House Bill 837) in the 2022 legislative session. A few of the provisions related to studies, data collection, reports, and income tax subtraction modification have been enacted. Implementation of the more

substantive provisions was left up to the voters to decide by this ballot question. If Question 4 is approved, this cannabis reform legislation will take effect.

Arguments FOR the amendment:

- Eighteen other jurisdictions, including Virginia and the District of Columbia, have legalized recreational cannabis use by adults.
- Maryland has had a medical cannabis program since 2014.
- About half of Maryland residents over the age of 18 admit to using marijuana at some point in their lives.
- Black Marylanders are more than twice as likely to be arrested for cannabis possession than white Marylanders despite similar usage rates.
- Cannabis possession accounted for 57% of drug related arrests in Maryland in 2020 creating a burden for law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system.
- Prior offenders will be able to clear their records of cannabis convictions, improving their access to jobs, education, and housing.

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

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

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

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

Question 5

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

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

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

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

Vote FOR or AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment

Current Law: The Orphans' Court (similar to probate court in other states) supervises the

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

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

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

Arguments FOR the amendment:

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

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

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

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

Arguments AGAINST the amendment:

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

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

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



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