



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

# 2024 Presidential Primary Election *Voters' Guide* for Dorchester County

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May 14, 2024

[last updated April 1, 2024]

About This *Voters' Guide*

This *Voters' Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore and covers all races for which voters in Dorchester County may vote. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. During Presidential primary elections, the national League invites candidates for President to participate in the *Voters' Guide* based on specified criteria (see *President of the United States* section for details). All candidates for state or local office, who filed with the State Board of Elections, were invited by the state and local Leagues to submit information about their candidacy to our web-based VOTE411 system. Invited candidates were asked to provide their campaign contact information and their responses to a series of questions posed for each office. All locally invited candidates were limited to 500 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 questions and responses are included in this *Guide*; and only candidate website, if available, is included here for contact information. Go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to see all questions and candidate-submitted information. The League offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens in their decision-making process

as they prepare for participation in the 2024 presidential elections.

**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 2024 primary election ballot are included in this *Guide*.

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

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

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

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**Election Day is  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
7 am – 8 pm**

**Early Voting is  
Thursday, May 2 – Thursday,  
May 9, 2024  
7 am – 8 pm, Daily**

**Voter Registration Deadline is  
April 23, 2024**

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

### **Three Ways to Vote**

- 1. VOTE BY MAIL-IN BALLOT –**  
April 1 through May 14
- 2. VOTE EARLY** Thursday, May 2 –  
Thursday May 9, 7 am - 8 pm, daily
- 3. VOTE AT YOUR ASSIGNED  
POLLING PLACE**, Tuesday, May  
14, 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 county 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 county 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**

1000 Goodwill Avenue  
P.O. Box 414  
Cambridge MD 21613-0414  
410-228-2560, Fax: 410-228-9635  
[www.dorcomdelections.org](http://www.dorcomdelections.org)  
Email Address:  
[Gwendolyn.dales@maryland.gov](mailto: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, MAY 7.**
- **via the internet**, deliver by **FRIDAY, MAY 10.**
- **pick up in person**, deliver by **TUESDAY, MAY 14.**

**All ballots must be mailed or hand delivered on or before Election Day, May 14.** Return your ballot to:

- your county Board of Elections office,
- your early voting location during early voting
- your local polling place on Election Day, or
- deposit it in a county ballot drop-box

#### **DORCHESTER COUNTY BALLOT DROP-BOXES 2 Locations:**

**Dorchester County Board of Elections,**  
1000 Goodwill Ave, Cambridge MD

**Veterans Memorial Park,** 204 South  
Main St, Hurlock MD

#### **BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN 8 PM, MAY 14**

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

## Vote in Person during Early Voting

**Thursday, May 2 – Thursday, May 9**  
**7 am - 8 pm, daily**

### Early Voting Location (1)

**Dorchester County Early Voting Center**, 1000 Goodwill Avenue,  
Cambridge MD

## Vote in Person on Election Day

**Tuesday, May 14, 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 county office of the 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.

## Party Primaries in Maryland

In Maryland, the Democratic and Republican Parties are required to use primary elections to choose their candidates for the general election.

These primaries are “closed;” you must be a member of a political party to participate in that party’s primary, although all voters may vote for nonpartisan offices such as the Board of Education. You may change your party affiliation up until the close of voter registration on April 23 by completing a voter registration form and submitting it to your county Board of Elections.

You may also change your party affiliation online if you have a Maryland driver’s license or identification card from the Motor Vehicle Administration.

If you have not previously registered to vote, you may register during early voting (May 2-9) at an early voting location in your county and choose a party at that time. For those already registered, you may correct your address or other information during early voting; however, you cannot change your party registration at that time.

You must be at least 18 years old by Nov 5, 2024 and a registered voter in your county to be eligible to vote in the primary.

## 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.**

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

**Only candidate information available at the time of our publication deadline is included here;** for more up-to-date information on candidate responses, check [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org).



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

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

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

# President of the United States

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

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

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

## Criteria for Participation in

**VOTE411.org:** All presidential candidates who will appear on Maryland's ballot are listed in this *Guide*. The League of Women Voters of the United States, through the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), established criteria to determine which candidates to invite to respond to questions for the *Voters' Guide*.

Candidates qualified for invitations from LWVEF to provide responses to specific

questions if they met the following criteria:

- 1) The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President.
- 2) The candidate must have met the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Election Commission's website.

Please note that voters in Maryland cast a ballot for candidates in only one party during the Presidential primary season. LWVEF is required to have at least two candidates for President from the same party meet the above criteria before launching a *Voters' Guide* covering that party.

## QUESTIONS

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

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

**ECONOMY:** What will you do to support an economy and job market

that are strong and inclusive of all people?

**CITIZENSHIP:** What are the most important steps you will take to create an accessible path to citizenship, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients?

**ELECTIONS:** What measures do you support to expand voter access and restore trust in our elections?

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Democrats may vote for 1

**Joseph Biden**

**Campaign Website:**

<https://joebiden.com/>

**COST OF LIVING:** President Biden and Vice President Harris will continue to invest in the American people and fight to lower costs for families. They will continue working to eliminate junk fees and call on corporations with higher markups to pass savings onto consumers. President Biden and Vice President Harris are also pushing Congress to lower the cost of housing, lower prescription drug prices for more Americans, expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care, extend the enhanced Child Tax Credit, ensure access to paid family and medical leave for every American, make preK free and college more affordable, and more.

Additional information can be found in this letter:

<http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>



**HEALTH CARE:** The Biden Administration is lowering prescription drug prices – President Biden was the first president to take on Big Pharma and win. He has capped the cost of insulin at \$35 for seniors and finally allowed Medicare to negotiate drug prices — starting with some of the costliest, most widely used drugs used to treat blood clots, cancers, diabetes and more. The Biden-Harris Administration is also defending in court a woman's ability to access medication abortion, fighting to ensure that women receive the medical care they need in emergencies including miscarriages, working to protect the right to travel across state lines to access care, and strengthening privacy protections for patients and doctors.

<http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

**ECONOMY:** President Biden and Vice President Harris came into office with a vision to grow the economy from the middle out and the bottom up—not the top down. They're focused on an economy that builds more in America, invests in American workers, and promotes competition to lower costs – and their economic vision is working. Additional information can be found in this letter:

<http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

**CITIZENSHIP:** President Biden and Vice President Harris are also using all the tools at their disposal to build a safe, orderly, and humane immigration system. While Donald Trump has repeatedly said that immigrants are poisoning the nation's blood and is calling for an

extreme immigration plan that would wreak havoc across communities while doing nothing to keep us safe, the Biden-Harris Administration has both increased legal pathways for migration and increased border enforcement. And, since Day One, President Biden has called on Congress to take action to build an orderly and humane immigration system. Additional information can be found in this letter:

<http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

**VOTING AND ELECTIONS:** As president, Joe Biden has made the defense, protection, and preservation of American democracy the central cause of his administration. This starts with strengthening and fighting for our democratic institutions and free and fair elections and President Biden is using every tool at his disposal to do so – including through an Executive Order directing all agencies to promote voting and voter registration, calling on Congress to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to establish national baseline standards for access to the ballot.

Additional information can be found in this letter:

<http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

**Dean Phillips**

**Campaign Website:** [dean24.com](http://dean24.com)

The candidate did not meet the criteria above and was not asked to respond to questions.

**Marianne Williamson**  
**Campaign Website:**

[www.marianne2024.com](http://www.marianne2024.com)

**COST OF LIVING:** My Economic Bill of Rights Plan includes 10 transformational changes.

Right to a living wage: On day 1, I will issue an executive order that provides a living wage to all public and private sector employees paid with federal contracts will receive a living wage.

The right to a voice in the workplace through a union and collective bargaining.  
The right to universal quality healthcare.  
The right to a cost-free higher education.  
The right to good, affordable housing.  
The right to a clean environment and a healthy planet.

The right to a meaningful endowment of resources at birth.

The right to sound banking and financial services.

The right to an equitable and fair justice system.

The right to cultural and civic involvement in democratic life.

**HEALTH CARE:** I favor a Medicare for All-style universal healthcare system, like those enjoyed by citizens of every other advanced democracy. My administration will also shift the focus away from a "sick-care system" to a healthcare system that actively invests in the building blocks of a healthy life by addressing root causes of our problems. I will also establish a Department of Children and Youth, taking our children from a national afterthought

to a central position in the re-imagination of our nation.

I will also center the rights of women. We will restore the right to abortion, provide reproductive care, close the gender gap in Social Security benefits, enact paid family and medical leave through the FAMILY ACT, and much more.

**ECONOMY:** My administration will make massive investments in our country on the scale of our mobilization during WWII. We will do it by creating millions of well-paid, unionized jobs building the housing, infrastructure, clean energy, education, childcare, and healthcare systems we need to create a fundamental U-turn. Supporting unions, instead of shutting them down the way Joe Biden did, gives the People a seat at the bargaining table. This empowers workers to improve conditions for all. But life happens. We will also ensure there is a robust social safety net there to catch people when they stumble, with extra emphasis on supporting the most vulnerable.

**CITIZENSHIP:** I firmly reject border walls, family separation, and dehumanizing rhetoric. I embrace immigrants and their pursuit of the American Dream, including Dreamers, as embodiments of our highest aspirations as a nation. I support comprehensive immigration reform and will provide a timely, ethical, transparent, and straightforward path to citizenship. I will protect the DACA program, expand protections for DACA recipients, ensure they have access to ACA/Medicaid coverage, update the registration date of

the 1929 Registry Act to 1/1/2022, and restore Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which expired in April 2001, allowing people who have approved petitions to apply for their Green Card upon payment of a fine for the filing fee.

**ELECTIONS:** I have a number of proposals, from getting money out of politics, to restoring the right to vote to the 5 million plus Americans with a felony conviction, abolishing the Electoral college, creating an automatic voter registration system, establishing Election Day as a national holiday, returning power to the Legislative branch, increasing the number of Supreme Court justices to 15 (with 10 or 20 year terms, instituting ranked choice or STAR voting, and much more.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Republicans may vote for 1

**Nikki Haley**

**Campaign Website:**

<https://nikkihaley.com/>

No response by print deadline; check

[Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org/)

**Donald Trump**

**Campaign Website:**

<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

No response by print deadline; check

[Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org/)

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# 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 2024, Maryland voters will elect one of our two Senators. About one-third of the 100 members of the Senate are elected every two years.

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

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Democrats may vote for 1

**Angela Alsobrooks**

**Campaign Website:**

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

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

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

**ENVIRONMENT:** Urgent action is needed to address the climate crisis. I will be a vocal advocate for the Green New Deal, as well as for expanding tax credits for clean energy and ensuring that all U.S. Government purchases, from buildings to vehicles, align with emission goals. As County Executive, I issued an Executive Order for Prince George's County, setting

ambitious targets to reduce the 2005 emission levels by half before 2030 and net zero by 2045. I believe the U.S. should adopt a similar timeline.

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

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

**Michael W. Cobb, Sr.**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Unlike the rest of the candidates, I am not a multi millionaire nor a career politician. What makes me most suitable as senator is that I am a blue class working person. I have endured server struggle these past few years. The current state of the political

world has no clue what the experience is of the normal person who has to work all day to pay bills and afford to eat. But I do, and I with a closer connection to the people will be able to find the solution to their problems.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** The answer to this question is easy, when I was young it was same day voting, paper ballots, and ID required for voting. The election results were always known at 11pm the same now. Bring it back to the old way and it would solve the issue.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change and pollution is not an american problem, we have some of the strictest regulations on emissions in the world. We need to force other countries such as China, Russia, and India to address their pollution emissions to more american standards.

**IMMIGRATION:** Lock the border down tight. Anyone who is illegal in the USA caught doing any criminal activity should be deported immediately, and follow all the laws that's already on the books. If anything it should be more difficult to entry the country, not easier.

**FIREARMS:** I am from Maryland, a state with some of the strictest gun laws in the country. I am a firm believer in the 2A rights of americans, including the right to carry. I have a carry permit myself. Background checks should be nation wide, not state by state. If a person is found with an illegally purchased fired, the court system must heavily enforce stricter punishment on them. There should always be a background check on



any purchase of a firearm in any situation.

**Marcellus Crews  
Campaign Website:**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a businessman, having the privilege of serving diverse clients across sectors like healthcare, construction, embassies, churches, and schools. Through my role as a state vendor, I've gained valuable insights into the needs and challenges of our community. With over 6,000 homes served, I've honed a unique ability to navigate complex issues and budgets while fostering trust and comfort through my leadership approach.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** We should pass H.R.4 – The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 This bill would restore parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that prevented states from enacting certain changes to their voting laws. They must first seek federal approval.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Being immersed in technology innovation, I firmly believe that the primary impediment to progress often stems from the relentless pursuit of monetary gain, resulting in inertia. I am confident in my ability to advocate for both businesses and governments to expedite the transition towards efficiency in renewable energy, electric vehicles, smart homes, smart businesses, and smart cities. Additionally, I am committed to mitigating toxic emissions originating

from industrial sources.

**IMMIGRATION:** 1. Immigration processing needs to speed up all the way around. 2. More immigration judges to speed up for those seeking asylum. 3. If allowed to stay in our country while waiting a temporary work visa granted. 4. Dreamers should be given permanent status. 5. Temporary work visa granted processed quicker. 6. More Custom and border protection officers 7. More smart fencing along the boarder. We just need a comprehensive approach!

**FIREARMS:** 1. I advocate for the integration of advanced smart technologies in gun safety measures. 2. The implementation of Red Flag Laws nationwide is imperative. 3. It is crucial to raise the minimum age for purchasing long guns from 18 to 21. 4. We must prioritize the establishment of mental health programs with robust accountability measures. 5. "Stand Your Ground" laws, we should impose limitations on the circumstances under which deadly force is justified outside of one's home.

**Brian E. Frydenborg**

**Campaign Website:**

<https://brian4md.com>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Over two decades experience engaging on national and international issues as a journalist, academic, and working with NGOs and government agencies. Passion for making a difference and two decades of studying, writing about, or working in public public,

politics, and international affairs. Deep knowledge of U.S. history, excellent communication skills, attention to detail, and that I am already putting out far more detailed plans than any of my competitors.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** First and foremost, we must call out, stand up to, and stop insurrectionist fascism. A big part of that will be protecting, preserving, and expanding voting rights; fighting cheating, gerrymandering, and discrimination; and expanding the Supreme Court while reforming the Senate to keep anti-democratic forces at bay. We must also protect against foreign election interference with our NATO allies and ensure that we instill digital literacy among our students and population.

**ENVIRONMENT:** We must take world leadership and engage in a new round of global climate talks. We should be phasing out coal power and oil while temporarily capitalizing on natural gas and nuclear energy while transition and fully developing far cleaner green energy projects with subsidies and tax breaks. We must also embrace carbon trading and modernize our infrastructure and energy grid, improve waste, food, and water management, and handle overaggressive deforestation and fishing managing soil quality.

**IMMIGRATION:** It has been decades over 4 presidencies that GOP has been blocking comprehensive immigration reform. We need to increase all immigration related staff and systems by between a factor of 1.5-2. That means

that many more asylum/immigration courts, judges, application processors, administrative staff, border patrol, etc. Needs to be paths to citizenship/work visas to all migrants in good standing (helping address labor shortage), Must work Latin American partners to stabilize LATAM & stem migration

**FIREARMS:** My own deep research into the issue makes it clear that the 2nd Amendment has been wildly distorted by modern activists: the original cited right to keep/bear are only meant in the context of militia service dating back to ancient Saxon tradition. Common law individual right is not covered by 2nd A and can be regulated easily. We must expand SCOTUS to restore balance who will correctly interpret 2nd A, then Congress can pass reasonable national gun regulation, which empirically saves lives!

### Scottie J. Griffin

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My professional credentials and professional experiences in leadership specifically correlate with the requirements and experiences for achieving success and effectiveness as a United States Senator. have prepared me for immediately assuming and achieving the duties of the united states senate. Most importantly, I am experienced at achieving responsibilities of a United States Senator through years of introducing and drafting bills, proposing and passing legislative policies, developing, organ

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Congress must update the election infrastructure annually and establish consistent procedures and processes in every state and territory; inspect and replace older voting machines and conduct a nationwide post-election audit in each state and territory

**ENVIRONMENT:** I would decrease the number of trees to reduce excessive carbon; create vehicles that don't run on fossil fuel; decrease emission standards of greenhouse gases to decrease the number of carbon monoxide emitted by human activities, and continuously finance climate change initiatives.

**IMMIGRATION:** I would create a permanent process which stipulates that immigrants who have resided in the United States for ten years without legal issues be granted full-fledged citizenship and decrease the number of years to five or six years

**FIREARMS:** Support President Biden's major gun safety bill in decades which required individuals to ascertain now need a state license to purchase a gun. And, that the bill includes safety legislation for schools, and a state crisis intervention program.

### Robert K. Houton Campaign Website:

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I initiated, and championed the fight in the 118th U.S. Congress to prevent fentanyl poisoning and deaths of teens, youth, and students.

My bold leadership safeguarding Maryland families and children, particularly, has resulted in three legislative--bipartisan--bills in the U.S. Congress which President Biden and his Administration also support. S.2569, the Fentanyl Safe Testing and Overdose Prevention Act is now going forward due in no small part to my advocacy.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** The U.S. should remain steadfast in ensuring the existing rules and laws protecting voting rights are adhered to, complied with, and effectively communicated to safeguard all eligible voters' rights.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change is real. We must continue to explore pathways for public-private partnerships, including fostering innovation and supporting tax incentives for proven methodologies and practices which protect the environment for our children.

**IMMIGRATION:** With 6,400 migrants with criminal histories apprehended so far this fiscal year, we MUST stop migrants with criminal histories from coming through the border. We must SECURE THE BORDER.

**FIREARMS:** Studies have shown time and again that those who struggle with acute mental health problems are more prone to gun violence. We need to invest in mental health supports. I fully support background checks and the banning of "ghost guns."

**Joseph Perez**

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

**Steven Henry Seuferer**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My entire life, I have been a solver of problems and I have been fascinated by technology, which has ultimately led me to work in Information Technology for a living. We, as a country, are on the precipice of a future where those skills are going to be vitally important for our leadership to possess if we want to stay on the forefront, and I plan to be there to help guide us in the right direction

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Implement automatic voter registration when someone turns 18 and/or obtains an ID or driver's license. Poll workers should be vetted as carefully as those with security clearances to ensure they are not compromised. End gerrymandering by requiring bipartisan approval on all redistricting maps

**ENVIRONMENT:** We need to eliminate corporate money from politics so big polluters can't just buy a senator, and we need to make unpopular decisions to safeguard our future for those who will come after us, as well as those who are here now.

**IMMIGRATION:** To begin with, I would say that we should probably change some things so that unaccompanied minors do not represent themselves in court proceedings. Also do something to stop governors from sending refugees to

another city to try to raise a political issue.

**FIREARMS:** Local and state laws are all well and good, but we won't be able to make any positive or tangible changes to gun safety unless it's done at the federal level. A multi-angle approach is needed, including mental health screenings and common-sense gun laws written by people who understand firearms.

**David J. Trone**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.davidtrone.com](https://www.davidtrone.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Following a successful career in business, I've served three terms representing Maryland's 6th Congressional District, where I have advocated for systemic change on the most pressing issues facing Marylanders and people across the country. I have never taken a penny from PACs or lobbyists and have continuously worked across the aisle to fight for progressive values. I have a proven track record of delivering results in Washington, passing 26 bills into law last Congress alone.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** I'm committed to restoring faith and trust in our government by putting an end to voter suppression laws that harm our democracy. We can start by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the For the People Act. I recently released my People Over Politics Reform Plan, which will work to take on the power of special interests, institute term limits, ensure we have free and fair elections, end extreme

partisan gerrymandering, and hold elected officials accountable.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Climate change is an existential threat to our future and the most important issue of our time. I am proud to have voted to support the Build Back Better Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. In the Senate, I will hold big oil accountable, expand efforts to reduce carbon emissions, invest in renewable energy, and address environmental health impacts in underserved communities to ensure a safe and healthy future for our children — both in the U.S. as well as in developing nations around the world.

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigrants are the foundation of this country, and passing comprehensive immigration reform is critical. In Congress, I voted in favor of the Dream Act to grant millions of undocumented immigrants legal status and provide a pathway to citizenship. As Senator, I will work to finally pass comprehensive immigration reform that addresses economic, humanitarian, and security concerns, as well as expanding work visa programs and protecting immigrants from wage theft and worker misclassification.

**FIREARMS:** I am proud to have an F rating from the NRA. Gun violence is out of control in this country, and it is up to our elected representatives to pass swift, comprehensive gun reform. It has long been clear that common sense gun regulations save countless lives. We must reinstate a nationwide assault weapons ban, pass expanded background check

requirements, enact red flag laws, and keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

**Andrew Jaye Wildman**

**Campaign Website:**

[www.commonsense2nd.com](http://www.commonsense2nd.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a patriot. Not a politician or a lawyer. A professional business problem solver. Author 2008, 718-page non-fiction political book *The Second Coming of Common Sense*. I have 40 plus publicly acceptable solutions for problems large and small. See the CS2News podcast. An aggressive problem solver for MD, 49 other states, and DC. I worked in DC for 30 years solving corporate and federal agency problems. So now we must remove cell phones from public school classrooms and close the borders!

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Means Protecting the Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness of our Citizens before all any others. Securing and protecting our Constitution from all adversaries both foreign AND domestic. We must close our borders to migrants for 2 years at least. Stop the flood! Implement an American Citizen ID system like every other nation has and register all legal and illegal occupants. Most of us don't realize it but more illegals typically enter via Intl airports than the land borders.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Things cannot stay same for progress to happen. For starters, suspend all passenger airline flights on Wednesday. That means

worldwide and all nations. This change is to be considered permanent. Public and industry oversight of flight volume the other 6 days. We must consider the improved nuclear power option. National recycling must become a national priority and industry. We must acknowledge globally that 8 Billion people is far more than governments can support. Fewer is better!

**IMMIGRATION:** Real Human numbers. US population growth by race US Census 2000 vs 2020. White only 1.3 million; Black 7.9 million; Asian 9.4 million; Hispanic 23.8 million; over 20 years. The US/Mexico will be closed immediately, with 2 weeks' notice. To be closed until at least the end of 2025. No migrants will enter the U.S. Amnesty, asylum, etc., will no longer be granted. Biden and the Democrats must close the door and take public credit for it! Remove immigration from the Republican talking points.

**FIREARMS:** On average there are 44 murders in America DAILY or 16,000 annually. Shooters don't fear the Death Penalty. The Parkland High school shooter killed 17. After 2 million plus dollars and 4 years the sentence was 17 consecutive life sentences, NOT the death penalty. Victim families and taxpayers have had too enough. My Justice System Reform proposal. The Sandy Hook Obviously Guilty 90-Day Death Penalty Reform. One and done. This is not eye-for-an-eye. This is death-for-a-death.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Republicans may vote for 1

**Moe H. Barakat**

**Campaign Website:**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am running for Senate to provide a refreshing alternative from the career politician mold, bringing a unique blend of honesty, leadership, and an exceptional ability to navigate the complex political spectrum to deliver results. As the Managing Director and Treasurer of a well-known US International Business Council, I've been instrumental in advancing investment in American states and cities, demonstrating my capability to forge cross-border partnerships that benefit the US economy.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** The United States MUST have free and fair elections. The integrity of these elections is of the utmost importance, and we must reform our election laws to secure voter ID requirements, prevent fraud, ban drop boxes, and stop ballot harvesting.

**ENVIRONMENT:** In order to address environmental issues, we must prioritize innovation and market-driven solutions rather than implementing overreaching government regulations. Conservatives can conserve our environment without sacrificing economic growth or imposing burdensome regulations.

**IMMIGRATION:** First and foremost, we must secure our Southern border and



prevent the flow of illegal immigrants into our communities. We must implement strong enforcement measures against illegal immigration. As the child of immigrants who came to this country the right way, I know the American Dream well and will fight for it every day.

**FIREARMS:** As a pro-Second Amendment candidate, I believe in protecting public safety while upholding our constitutional rights. Restrictions on gun ownership should only target criminals and the mentally unstable, not law-abiding citizens. Strengthening background checks and cracking down on illegal gun trafficking are crucial to ensuring our safety and freedoms.

**Chris Chaffee**  
**Campaign Website:**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a husband, father, grandfather, Catholic, Patriot, I believe in the Constitution of the United States. I feel our country is going in the wrong direction. I feel my insight as an outsider is exactly what we need.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** We need an ID for everything we do in life. You should need a photo ID to cast your ballot. A special exception for the elderly who may no longer have a license.

**ENVIRONMENT:** I would start having all countries do their part in cleaning up the planet. All countries who manufacture need to be as mindful of the health of our planet as we and other countries are. We can all do better and do our part.

**IMMIGRATION:** First I would start by closing the border. I would enforce the immigration laws on the books. I would hold Mexico and other countries financially responsible for their citizens buy boycotting trade until they control their own borders.

**FIREARMS:** I am a defender of the second amendment. I believe if a home has children under 18 years old a trigger locks or a safe must be used for their safety.

**Robin Ficker**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.voteficker.com](http://www.voteficker.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a lifelong Marylander, Army Veteran, former Attorney who completed 40,000 cases, MD Real Estate Broker and farmer. I was elected to the MD House of Delegates, fighting to restrain the State budget and against lobbyists. I've placed 25 charter amendments on the ballot, passing term limits and limiting property tax increases. My life has been dedicated to the service of America and Maryland and my track record of success has uniquely prepared me to serve Maryland in the United States Senate.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** First, the Supreme Court should immediately end all efforts to keep Donald Trump off the ballot, and ensure a free and fair election for President. Second, the Federal Government should create a system to track voters who move to a new state, alerting both States of the move. The

Federal Government has little constitutional power otherwise, but should facilitate States implementing ID requirements for every vote, bipartisan vote counting and recounting, and security at polling locations.

**ENVIRONMENT:** I will champion the expansion of Calvert Cliffs clean energy plant, which currently provides 38% of Maryland's electricity. I will push for expanding America's overall nuclear energy production, despite 'environmental' 'activists' efforts to thwart clean energy. I will also vote against treaties that allow China and India to dramatically increase pollution. Finally, I will promote cleaner sources of electricity, such as natural gas, and decrease our reliance on electricity sources like coal.

**IMMIGRATION:** Annually, a million people enter the U.S. legally, far more than any other country on earth. In 2023, there were 3.2 million illegal migrant encounters. This year 28,000 lbs of fentanyl have been seized at the border. More than 2,500 Marylanders under 25 have died from it. We need to hire and place 2,000 immigration judges at the border to speed up processing. We also need to restore "Remain in Mexico" and "First Neutral Nation" policies, so that our asylum system is not taken advantage of.

**FIREARMS:** As an Army veteran, I understand the awesome power of guns, and responsibilities that come with firearms ownership. "Gun safety" is not banning firearms. I will promote actual "gun safety" by voting for legislation that



increases access to firearms safety training and promotes groups that teach the same. I will also fight for criminal justice reform that ensure that violent offenders, especially those who use guns, are kept in jail and not let loose on our street. I support the Second Amendment.

**Lorie R. Friend**  
**Campaign Website:**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I am a registered nurse of 27 years. As a nurse, one must listen closely to what someone says and read between the lines to understand what they are communicating. I have had to effectively advocate for my patients as the liaison between doctor and patient. I have had to adapt to changing situations, policies, staff and negotiate effectively in complex situations in an institutional setting. During the Covid pandemic, I held my post every shift. I will effectively advocate for Marylanders!

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Voting integrity is paramount for democracy. If people lose faith in our elections, then there is no incentive to vote. Elections must be fair/honest. I believe we should make voting a 1 day federal holiday with in-person voting and proper identification. Mail in ballots only for our military, oversees personal and the disabled. Ballots must be paper, not electronic, and counted with results reported on the same day.

**ENVIRONMENT:** As I understand it, the main goal of climate change policy is

keeping our environment safe, and many believe we can achieve this with clean renewable energy. However, we need compromise on both sides. While effective green policy may help in aiding the reduction of climate change, we still need resources such as fossil fuels as they are still the lifeblood of our economy and can be used anywhere regardless of location, time, or weather.

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigration policy change is a difficult subject as so many have already illegally crossed onto American soil. As per our existing laws and policies, one must be detained, vetted, and apply for asylum, not immediately released. The current no border policy is not fair to the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came to our country legally and is dangerous. I believe one should abide by our laws in order to receive citizenship, social benefits, and rights just as every other American.

**FIREARMS:** There are already ample gun safety legislation in effect. It is not about passing more gun safety laws, criminals will continue to find ways to obtain firearms illegally to commit crimes. While I have no issues with continued screenings and vetting purchasers, and red flagging potential owners with medical/mental instability, I do stand by Americans who legally own and purchase firearms for their protection. It is their 2nd Amendment Right!

**Larry Hogan**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.LarryHogan.com](http://www.LarryHogan.com)

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

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

**ENVIRONMENT:** While Washington was failing to address climate change, Maryland was leading under Governor Hogan—enacting cleaner air standards stronger than 48 other states and far stronger than the Paris Agreement. In addition to supporting strong environmental stewardship and

sustainability, he believes it is especially critical to bring both state and federal resources to bear in holding upstream polluters accountable and protecting regional Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals.

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

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

**John A. Myrick**

**Campaign Website:**

[www.johnmyrickforsenate.org](http://www.johnmyrickforsenate.org)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I'm not a Politician; I'm a Public Servant. Raised here in Maryland, I have spent my life defending our Nation. I was a Harford County Deputy Sheriff. I served 23 years in the

U.S. Air Force Reserve; retiring as a highly decorated combat veteran. I was a Senior Civilian Intelligence Officer for the Government; considered a Subject Matter Experts in Asymmetric Threats. I've lectured on National Security issues at major universities and testified before Congress nearly 100 times.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** I believe that every eligible Citizen should be offered the chance to cast their ballot. There needs to be a way to update voter rolls in a more timely and automated manner. I am in favor of requiring an ID to vote to ensure that the person casting a ballot is who they say they are. I would end mail-in ballot "harvesting" and require that all mail-in ballots be sent by U.S. mail. People need to believe in the integrity of the voting process again.

**ENVIRONMENT:** I will introduce legislation to restore American energy independence and also will introduce legislation to incentivize development of clean energy alternatives and hold polluters financially and criminally accountable for their actions. I will encourage the Administration to engage with other nations to reach consensus on ways that they, too, can reduce both carbon emissions and other pollutants. This is a global issue and required a global response. The U.S. cannot do this alone.

**IMMIGRATION:** All nations are defined by their borders. I would work to end the practice of allowing undocumented migrants to surge across our borders and enforce our current entry laws. I would

push to have military and other government attorneys detailed as Administrative Law Judges to hear asylum petitions at the border. I will introduce legislation to update our broken legal immigration statutes, with provisions to allow qualified U.S. Citizens to sponsor close family members outside current restrictions.

**FIREARMS:** Marylanders understand that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. The solution is not more laws, but strict enforcement of existing laws. I will amend current Federal criminal codes to remove judicial discretion in sentencing of crimes involving firearms; adding a 5-year mandatory consecutive term for these crimes that cannot be suspended. I will work to have registered gun owners maintain records of private sales, as one would do with the sale of a vehicle.

**Laban Y. Seyoum**

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

# Representative in Congress

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

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

**TERM:** Two years.

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

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

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

## QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Democrats may vote for 1

**Blane H. Miller, III**

**Campaign Website:**

[miller4maryland.com](https://miller4maryland.com)

No response by print deadline; check

[Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org)

**Blessing T. Oluwadare**

**Campaign Website:**

[blessingforcongress.com/](https://blessingforcongress.com/)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Firstly my experience as a skills of leadership, problem solving, pay attention to details, humility, good communication skills, my passion and motivation, Interpersonal skills. Adaptability, integrity Good time-management skills, strong work ethic and determination to succeed, Creativity and innovative thinking. prepare me for the duties of united States Representatives. am confident in my candidacy for this role and look forward to showing you my skill set."

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** 1. Early voting not only provides individuals greater flexibility to cast a ballot in-person, but it greatly reduces wait times on Election Day 2. Improve accessibility for Voters with Disabilities . The FTVA would improve poll site accessibility

standards and require an expedited line for voters with disabilities and older voters. It would also require states to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to mail-in voting as other voters, in addition to making ballots electronic

**ENVIRONMENT:** Changing our main energy sources to clean and renewable energy is the best way to stop using fossil fuels. These include technologies like solar, wind, wave, tidal and geothermal power. Switch to sustainable transport. Go green. Switch to green power from renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower to reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

**IMMIGRATION:** poverty, 2) acculturation, 3) education, 4) housing, 5) employment, and 6) social functionality. Permanent Immigrant Registry Congress should create a permanent process whereby immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least 10 years can register with the government to obtain permanent legal status 2. Permanent Immigrant Registry Congress should create a permanent process whereby immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least 10 years can register with the government

**FIREARMS:** Gun violence is a solvable problem with a road map for success,". "And educators can work through their unions to pass resolutions for safer schools, participate in days of action, rally and lobby for change, and create opportunities to address mental health and well-being in schools."

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Republicans may vote for 1

**Chris Bruneau, Sr.**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I began leadership training at age 12 in military school in 1973. I enlisted in the US Army November 22, 1978 and went on active duty July 29, 1979. I left active duty in 1989 and continued to serve in the reserves until 1992. The rigors of training as a Deep Sea Diver for the US Army prepared me to handle difficult challenges, without fear of failure, through problem solving skills learned in the military. I have over 25 years of experience managing businesses as a fiscal conservative.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** Article 1, Section 4 of the Constitution gives states the right to choose its elected representatives, but congress may modify this through legislation. Little has been done about voter integrity since the 14th amendment and the civil rights acts of 1957 and 1964. Complexity and lack of uniformity amongst the states voting processes makes a federal mandate for a uniform voting system the only practical solution. The challenge is getting 50 states to agree to a federal mandate.

**ENVIRONMENT:** I believe people are moving in a positive direction to treat the planet better. As technology advances we have more and more options available to us for cleaner energy. The problem with great issues like this in the US is elected

officials use this and other issues as political poker chips. To make progress on environmental challenges, we need to take it out of the hands of government and let the private sector oversee the proper administration of environmental solutions.

**IMMIGRATION:** US immigration policies and laws are more than sufficient to administer people legally entering the country. The true issue facing our nation is invasion of the United States by foreign nationals. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution is clear. Congress has the power to provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions. Change is not required. Congress simply needs to do their job by enforcing the Constitution.

**FIREARMS:** The 2nd Amendment is clear, we have the right to own firearms. Regulation of firearms by the government seems acceptable provided it does not violate the right to bear arms. There are an estimated 393 million firearms in circulation of which 6 million are registered. If registering 387 million firearms will reduce crime, I will cross the aisle to accomplish incremental changes, which is better than the status quo, because nothing changes if nothing changes!

**Andy Harris**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.andyharris.com](http://www.andyharris.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** In addition to being a US Navy veteran, I was a practicing physician for over 30 years, and have been serving the First Congressional District in Congress since 2011. I sit on the Appropriations Committee, and Chair the Agriculture subcommittee, which is important to the economy of the district.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** We must ensure the integrity of our elections by requiring voter ID and signature verification of mail-in ballots. Electronic voting should not be allowed - only paper ballots which can be audited in a recount. We cannot allow illegal aliens to vote in any elections.

**ENVIRONMENT:** We have to invest in research to allow us to transition from fossil fuel energy to safe nuclear energy, hydrogen fuel cells, and eventually to fusion energy. Until then we should take advantage of our huge natural gas reserves, which are an environmentally-friendly way of producing energy.

**IMMIGRATION:** We have to deport the millions of illegal immigrants who were allowed to enter the US under the Biden administration. We also have to strengthen the H2B temporary foreign worker program that our district economy depends on.

**FIREARMS:** The Second amendment guarantees the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. In the current environment of increasing violent



crime and the restrictions placed on law enforcement to do their jobs, the need for self-defense is even more important than ever. Increasing violent crime by illegal aliens makes this problem even worse.

**Michael Scott Lemon**

**Campaign Website:** [www.lemon4u.org](http://www.lemon4u.org)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** From interacting with various groups and people, I have been privileged with seeing many walks of life. This has shown me the struggles of everyday people. The same people who have been forgotten again and again.

**PROTECTING DEMOCRACY:** An election is insecure when people don't care and stay home. I truly believe the best way to make sure the will of the people is followed is to instill a desire to turn up and make their voice heard.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Teddy Roosevelt made the National Park service. Richard Nixon made the EPA. I strive to find balance between keeping a clean country and letting people do what needs to be done. I will work with companies to allow more drilling and or fracking but do my best to limit environmental damage.

**IMMIGRATION:** Its not that we need new laws. We need to hold the people not enforcing them accountable. With the recent vote to impeach Mayorkas, its showing that we can hold officials who ignore their duty accountable. Crossing the border is already illegal. Illegal immigration is a slap in the face to legal immigrants and American citizens.

**FIREARMS:** I believe in Firearm safety.

Now I'm more inclined to enjoy a manual safety rather than a simple trigger safety. (sorry not sorry to all the Glock fan boys but I am more of a TWO World wars kinda guy) All jokes aside I support legal gun owners. The fact is most gun crimes in America are done with people who are barred from owning firearms. When it comes to Gun control, people are just asking for less gun deaths. I understand them but taking rights away from legal owners is not the way.

## Convention Delegates

### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

#### PURPOSE OF PRESIDENTIAL

**PRIMARY:** The presidential primary has three purposes: to elect delegates to the national nominating convention; determine the preference for a party's nomination; and determine how all or part of a state's delegation to a national convention will vote.

#### NATIONAL NOMINATING

**CONVENTIONS:** Presidential nominees are not elected directly by the voters in the party primary. Rather, voters in each state choose delegates to represent them at the national conventions and the state party selects other delegates according to their state rules. State delegations from Maryland are composed of party leaders and elected officials selected by the state parties

and of delegates elected within congressional districts in the state primary.

**DUTIES:** Convention delegates represent their state at their party's national nominating convention where they select the nominee for president, adopt the party's platform, and adopt the rules for the party's activities, including the presidential nominating process for the next election cycle. Elected delegates may run as uncommitted to any candidate or may pledge (Democrats) or bond (Republicans) themselves to vote for a specific candidate.

Candidates for delegate or alternate delegate are listed by name. A presidential contender's name appears in parentheses after the candidate's name only if he or she has been approved by the contender or their campaign.

## QUESTIONS

**QUALIFICATIONS:** How does your experience prepare you for the duties of a convention delegate?

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** What factors were most important in deciding to pledge your support to this candidate?

### Delegates to the Democratic National Convention

Maryland will send a total of 117 delegates and 8 alternates to the Democratic National Convention,



which will be held August 19-22, 2024 in Chicago, IL. Voters from each Congressional District will vote for 6 to 10 delegates per District, based on population, for a statewide total of 63 district-level elected delegates. Congressional District 1 will elect 6 of those delegates: 3 female and 3 male. Male and female delegates will be selected separately. Congressional district-level delegates will be selected based on the proportion of the vote won by the presidential candidate to whom they are pledged.

Additional details about the delegate selection process are posted on the Maryland Democratic Party website at <https://mddems.org/your-party/public-2024-delegate-selection-plan/>

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Democrats may vote for up to 6.

**Laurie Anne Brittingham (Biden)**  
Female

**Matthew Cody (Biden)**  
Male

The candidates above did not respond by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org)

**Mike Comeau (Uncommitted)**  
Male

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Having served as a member of the Maryland General

Assembly representing District 35A (1997-1999), nine years as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee with three terms as County Chair and having been elected as a Democratic Convention Delegate in 1996 before serving on my local Election Board, I have the background and experience to effectively represent First District Democrats in Chicago. Unforeseen circumstances could arise requiring experienced representation.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Electing our Democratic Presidential nominee is the first priority. Democracy is on the ballot this year along with many core values. The convention is August 19-22 and much could happen in the meantime. As of March 19th, 20 Uncommitted delegates have been elected nationwide and should "Uncommitted" receive 15% or more of the vote in the First District, it is important that an experienced delegate candidate be selected to serve.

**Michele W. Dappert (Biden)**  
Female

**Mohammad Idrees Munir (Uncommitted)**  
Male

**Connor A. Romblad (Biden)**  
Male

**Sheree Sample-Hughes (Biden)**  
Female

The candidates above did not respond by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org)

**Jared Schablein (Biden)**  
Male

**Qudrat U. Tariq (Uncommitted)**  
Male

The candidates above did not respond by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org)

## Delegates to the Republican National Convention

Maryland will send a total of 37 delegates to the Republican National Convention, which will be held July 15-18, 2024 in Milwaukee, WI. Each of Maryland's 8 Congressional Districts will elect 3 delegates and 3 alternates. The presidential contender receiving the greatest number of votes in each District will receive the votes of all three of that District's delegates.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Republicans may vote for up to 3.

**Pamela Joyce Craig (Haley)**

**Julie Giordano (Trump)**

**Danielle Hornberger (Trump)**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[daniellehornberger.com](https://daniellehornberger.com)

The candidates above did not respond by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org)

**Christopher John Russo, Jr. (Haley)**  
**Campaign Website:** [nikkihaley.com](http://nikkihaley.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS:** With over 30 years in law, my experience has honed my commitment to fiscal and personal responsibility, the rule of law, free speech, and the Constitution. I bring a seasoned perspective on defending democracy and advocating for political compromise. My legal background ensures I understand and can navigate complex issues, making me a well-prepared advocate at the Republican National Convention.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** My pledge to Nikki Haley stems from her alignment with my core beliefs, as already described. Her commitment to democratic values and her ability to bring Americans of all political persuasions together resonates with me. Haley's proven leadership reflects my advocacy for responsible governance and my dedication to safeguarding our nation's democratic ideals.

**Nate Sansom (Haley)**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.nikkihaley.com](http://www.nikkihaley.com)

**Kathy Szeliga (Trump)**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.electkathy.com](http://www.electkathy.com)

The candidates above did not respond by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

## Alternate Delegates to the Republican National Convention

**DUTIES:** Alternate delegates are selected to attend the party's national convention as backups in case any of the primary delegates are unable to fulfill their duties.

### REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Republicans may vote for up to 3.

**Lauren Arikan (Trump)**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.electarikan.com](http://www.electarikan.com)

**Casi Boyer (Haley)**

**Barry Donadio (Trump)**  
**Campaign Website:**  
[www.barrydonadio.com](http://www.barrydonadio.com)

**Jeffery McBride (Trump)**

**Lauren Paige Strauss (Haley)**

The candidates above did not respond by print deadline; check [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

**Marsha W. Swezey (Haley)**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have been an elected official in the past in PA (Tax Collector). I am a responsible individual who pays attention to detail.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** My desire is to see a younger, more vital candidate with

a strong background in national and international affairs.

## 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:** What has inspired you to become a candidate for this office? How does your background and knowledge prepare you for the duties of this office?

**PARENTAL INPUT:** How would you address concerns about specific books or instructional materials in the schools?

**TEEN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:** What programs and policies, if any, do you propose or support to help our schools address the ongoing concerns around student mental health?

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** How would you ensure that all students have equitable access to resources, challenging courses,

and effective teachers and administrators?

**TEACHERS:** What strategies would you support to attract and retain effective teachers and administrators?

## Dorchester County Board of Education District 1

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

#### Brandy Dawson Cumberland

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I was approached about becoming a candidate due to numerous concerns including transparency. As a life-long resident of my district, and with four children of my own, I was passionate about saving our schools, especially our rural schools. I have studied and implemented quality initiative projects through my nursing doctoral studies. I am serious about safe, evidence-based, and data-driven solutions while remembering the uniqueness of our large school district and rural areas.

**PARENTAL INPUT:** I encourage parental input regarding instructional materials and resources. Parental involvement is critical to change within our school system. Books and materials should be age-appropriate, serve an educational purpose, and not seek to promote controversy.

**TEEN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:** I aim to establish and reform policies to

promote a safe environment for students. As a mental health professional, I witness and treat adults daily who are chronically impacted by childhood trauma. Community involvement, funding for extracurricular activities, mental health awareness, and increased availability of counselors are all integral parts I would like to see increased.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** Creating a learning environment that attracts and retains quality teachers and administrators is the foundation of equitable access for all students. The staff and community must be empowered to express concern over barriers they see a student face. For instance, if a student desires to participate in a club or higher level of learning, and the teacher or a fellow parent is aware of a transportation barrier that the child faces, we need anonymous outreach avenues and resources for the student.

**TEACHERS:** Aside from a competitive benefit package, we need safe schools for our teachers. This is a tremendous concern presently in our schools. Additionally, teachers and administrators must be supported by their superiors and board.

#### Michael D. Diaz, Sr.

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

#### Lucas A. Thorpe

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

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Passionate about educational excellence, my background as ALL4LOVE's co-founder and executive director, coupled with academic achievements and community service, uniquely qualifies me. I bring dedication, transparency, and hands-on experience to advocate for positive change and prioritize students' needs on the Board of Education. With a youthful spirit, I'm committed to redefining educational leadership, bridging the gap between students and decisions.

**PARENTAL INPUT:** I prioritize open dialogue, actively seeking and valuing parental concerns. Establishing a transparent review process involving parents, educators, and administrators ensures a collaborative approach, addressing concerns while upholding educational standards. Let's ensure a curriculum that reflects our community's values and fosters diverse perspectives.

#### TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

**CRISIS:** Leveraging my experience with ALL4LOVE, I propose robust mental health initiatives within schools. By integrating mentorship programs, mental health awareness campaigns, and fostering partnerships with local professionals, we can address the ongoing teen mental health crisis. Together, we prioritize the well-being of our students.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** Prioritizing educational equity, I advocate for targeted resource allocation, mentorship

programs, and professional development to bridge the opportunity gap. With inclusive policies and community engagement, we can ensure every student has access to quality education, challenging courses, and skilled educators. Let's level the playing field together.

**TEACHERS:** To enhance teacher diversity, I advocate for diverse recruiting initiatives and scholarships for aspiring educators from our school system. Revamping the Teacher Academy Program at DCTC will provide hands-on experience. By investing in these strategies, we ensure a rich and inclusive pool of educators, fostering a dynamic learning environment.

## Dorchester County Board of Education District 5

### CANDIDATES

Vote for 1

**Jerome J. Harris**

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

**Michael Hartford**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The need for our community to have a true voice on the board. I'm a parent of 2 whom attend VES and know the importance of

communication and transparency. The previous left our Parents in the dark with important information and I assure that not to happen again. We must stick together for our children.

**PARENTAL INPUT:** I am open to any and all suggestions. My main priority is being transparent and making sure parents actually have a say in what their children are learning.

### TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

**CRISIS:** Personal counselors in each school are a must. We must allow these children a way to express their feelings and emotions.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** By being fair and transparent. I will encourage alternative schools for those children with learning disabilities. This will allow them to thrive and develop at a faster pace. All students should have the best resources and information available to any child in the nation. Our children deserve better.

**TEACHERS:** I encourage broadening our teachers trainings and listening to their concerns first hand. The more they learn, the better off our children will be.

**Christopher M. Wheedleton**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Throughout my life, I have drawn inspiration from both family and educators who challenged me and guided me toward making positive contributions to my community. While working in several education-focused organizations around the country, my career has included opportunities to weave together education and workforce

development. This work has equipped me with the skills, knowledge, and ability to bring what I have learned into our local school system. I try to help in every way that I can.

**PARENTAL INPUT:** In my current role on the Board, I have addressed concerns about specific books or instructional materials by ensuring that we consistently follow the transparent review process we have in place. This process involves a cross-section of qualified stakeholders in our community, including educators, parents, and students. It's important we consider all perspectives through constructive dialogue and a review process that values high quality, age-appropriate content for all students.

**TEEN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:** I support integrating comprehensive mental health education programs into academic experiences. It's essential to provide support services through a combination of on-site counseling with trusted adults invested in the students' success and peer support initiatives to foster a positive school culture. Resources for fostering collaboration with community partners, and implementing policies ensuring accessibility and confidentiality are crucial for student mental health support and growth.

**OPPORTUNITY GAP:** Ensuring equitable access requires targeted resource allocation as well as the right balance of funding, technology, and community partners to help. Providing support for diverse learning needs is essential and takes every stakeholder in our

communities to help young people find their individual path to success. Engaging with every student to learn where their interests lie and matching that to all the best resources available put us on the best path to equitable access for all students.

**TEACHERS:** I have been working to support competitive compensation packages, professional development opportunities, and mentorship programs to attract and retain effective teachers and administrators. A positive work environment with opportunities for career

advancement and leadership roles further enhances retention. Prioritizing work-life balance and listening to needs and challenges are integral strategies to ensure long-term commitment and satisfaction among educators and administrators.



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