FREDERICK COUNTY GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS GUIDE

For the full LWV guide, visit www.vote411.org. For The News-Post’s coverage of the 2014 election, visit newspost.com/election2014
Prepared by the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Frederick County has produced this guide for use in the upcoming Frederick County gubernatorial general election, to be held Tuesday, Nov. 4.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The league does not support nor oppose any political party or candidate. Nothing in this voters’ guide should be interpreted as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters of any party or candidate.

The voters’ guide contains only the names of the candidates on the official ballots as certified by the local election officials. Candidates are not listed in the order in which their names appear on the ballot due to FNP space considerations for this guide. Write-in candidates’ names will be posted inside the polling place. For the full LWV guide, including write-in candidates, visit Vote411.org

All candidates for each office were sent identical questionnaires. Candidates’ answers appear as submitted. Although the utmost effort is made to ensure accuracy, the League of Women Voters can assume no liability for errors or omissions. The league thanks all candidates who submitted answers to the league questionnaires. The league thanks The Frederick News-Post for printing the voters’ guide.

Who can vote in the Frederick County general election?

In Maryland, registration is required in order to vote. To register to vote in Frederick County, you must meet the following requirements: resident of Frederick County; United States citizen; at least 16 years of age (you may register to vote at 16 but cannot vote until at least 18 years of age by the date of the next general or special election); and not disqualified as outlined by Maryland state law.

All registered voters may vote in the general election.

If you have questions about your eligibility to vote, please call the Frederick County Board of Elections at 301-600-VOTE (301-600-8683), or visit their website at www.FrederickCountyMDgov/elections.

Early voting

Any registered voter can vote during early voting. For the general election, Frederick County’s early voting centers will be open Thursday, Oct. 23 through Thursday, Oct. 30. The early voting centers have been expanded to three sites:
1. Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD 21702
2. Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788
3. Urbana Regional Library, 9020 Amelung St., Frederick, MD 21704

The early voting centers will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone in line at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Voting during early voting is the same as voting on Election Day. You will check in to vote and vote your ballot. Like Election Day voting, you will vote on the touchscreen voting system. Election judges will be available to answer your questions or provide assistance, if needed. All voting centers are accessible to voters with disabilities. If you vote during early voting, you cannot vote on Election Day or by absentee ballot. Go to www.elections.state.md.us/voting/early_voting.html for more information about early voting.

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DUTIES: The county executive is the chief executive officer of the county and shall faithfully execute the laws. All executive power vested in the county by the constitution and laws of Maryland and this charter shall be vested in the executive. The executive shall see that the affairs of the executive branch are administered properly and efficiently, and that employees of the executive branch faithfully perform their duties. The executive supervises and directs the offices, agencies and divisions of the executive branch, prepares and submits the annual county budget for approval by the county council and recommends legislative measures to the council.

QUALIFICATIONS: My qualifications include 12 years as a County Commissioner with 4 years as President of the Board, strong working relationships with local and state officials developed as President of the Maryland Association of Counties, and business experience in finance, accounting, and manufacturing. Most important, I value public participation, honest and open government, and strong fiscal management.

PRIORITY: Responsible Growth - Time the pace of residential growth with our ability to provide infrastructure and services. Require growth to pay its way. Education - Invest to recruit and retain the best teachers in the classroom, up-to-date technology, and adequate schools. Ethics - Create an independent ethics commission and restore laws that prohibit elected officials from profiting from their position.

TRANSPORTATION: The County must require needed road improvements from new development concurrent with traffic demand to avoid further congestion and unsafe roadways. I will restore a strong Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and require contributions to our transportation fund. I support creative financing, public/private partnerships, and telecommuting. I will advocate for funding with state/federal officials.

REVENUE: The County is facing a budget deficit due to fiscal mismanagement by the current Board. Tax revenues are up but they are spending more money than they have. I will re-prioritize our spending to focus on core services like education, public safety and roads instead of giving property taxes away to new development. I will end privatization that costs more and stop selling county assets at a loss.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: I will promote Frederick by highlighting our exceptional schools, well-trained workforce, and high quality of life. To create jobs, I will invest in our business incubator; support our bio-techs through regional collaboration and a life science business specialist; fast track permits; and assist small businesses growth. I will create a cabinet-level business advisory board and support agriculture.

EDUCATION: We must fund above Maintenance of Effort, the minimum level of funding required by state law, to ensure exceptional schools. Top notch schools lift everyone - our students, our property values, our quality of life, and our economic prosperity. We must have the best teachers in the classroom, up-to-date technology, and programs with a proven record of success including early childhood education.
DUTIES: All the legislative powers that the county may exercise under the Maryland Constitution and laws of the state are vested in the council. The council enacts local legislation, adopts the budget, sets the county tax rate, and exercises planning and zoning responsibilities.

SALARY: $22,500

TERM: Four years; no council member may serve more than three consecutive terms.

HOW ELECTED: The county council is comprised of seven members. There are two at-large council members who are elected by voters countywide. In addition, the county is also divided into five council districts (Council Districts 001, 002, 003, 004 and 005) from which a resident of that district will be elected. Voters may vote for no more than three of the seven council members — two at-large seats, plus the voters' council district seat.

Questions

Qualifications: What are your qualifications for this office?

Priorities: What do you think are the three most important issues facing Frederick County and how would you address them?

Transportation: What is the role of county government in making sure road infrastructure keeps pace with development?

Revenue: Considering that Frederick County is facing a budget deficit, what should be done to meet future needs for services and infrastructure?

Economic development: What measures are needed to promote economic development in Frederick County?

Education: Do you think that the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding standard for education adequately meets the needs of Frederick County students? Explain.

SUSAN REEDER JESSEE
Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.susanreederjessee.com

Qualifications: As a lifelong resident I have the knowledge and experience in many of the tough issues facing Frederick County. My experience in business and economic development, strategic planning, budgeting, and biotechnology, provides the background necessary when making decisions that affect all citizens of the county. I am also a small business owner and know the issues that small business owners face.

Priorities: Jobs-Creating and maintaining family supporting jobs takes planning & commitment and must be funded appropriately. Education-An excellent school system drives economic development, job creation, and a great quality of life. Competitive teacher salaries and tools for students are essential. Growth-Responsible growth results in good business and communities with a check and balance system in place.

Transportation: The counties involvement in road infrastructure is critical to make sure road improvements do keep pace with development. Good roads and traffic patterns are essential for business and commerce, safety, education, and overall quality of life. Partnering with local and state officials to obtain funds for road improvements on all roads and major arteries for long term planning needs is essential.

Revenue: The management of the county budget needs to address each budget item individually, and prioritize based on current critical needs. Although the size of government has decreased the budget has increased recently. We must restore long-term budgeting ideals attached with the county's capital budget to the operating budget. Reviewing the true costs of services that have been outsourced is important.

Economic development: My direct experience in economic development proved to me that we should: Re-Establish the Business Development Advisory Council (BDAC) so that we have a true pulse with the business community, restore the Economic Development name and provide them with the tools that they need to aggressively recruit new companies while assisting companies here, restore funding to FITCI, and enhance retail here.

Education: Funding at the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) level is not sufficient in addressing the overall needs in the classroom. Law provides increases in revenue when enrollment increases but does not take into account the additional costs incurred from inflation, energy costs increases, salary and benefit increases if the economy is growing, programs in special educations, disabilities, and poverty needs.

LINDA MARIE NORRIS
Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.lindanorrisforcouncil.com

Qualifications: Having worked, lived and parented here for 28 years as county government/public safety reporter for the Frederick News Post; heading the Frederick County Recycling Office 1990-1999; and US Communications Director for global corporation Canam Steel, my business sense, broad community experience and training as a reporter to research issues and balance all sides make me a well-qualified candidate.

Priorities: Attract companies providing well-paying, long-term jobs for Frederick County; ensure that sustainability drives our solid waste planning by cancelling the WTE incinerator and developing a public-private composting facility; restore confidence in land-use planning with an immediate council review of Charter counties' policies/regulations resulting in better balance between landowner and citizen

Transportation: If county government, the level closest to county residents, does not serve as a watchdog over local roads, no one will! It is the job of county leaders, both staff and elected, to obtain state and federal funds to support the transportation systems envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan, and to plan for funding and timing of design, building and upgrading local roads.

Revenue: We should assess the impact of all county program fee reductions in the past four years to ensure that the fees being charged are covering the cost and, if they are not, determine if they should be adjusted; mandate a transparent Due Diligence Committee for Tax Incremental Financing and CDA requests to ensure that taxpayers are receiving an adequate financial return.

Economic development: Re-start the Business Development Advisory Committee, the group that for decades was pulse and source of ambassadors/connections for staff in attracting large companies. Reissue what was formerly a fund to attract startup businesses, revamped as a Catalyst Loan Fund specifically targeting Bio- and Green businesses as a source of matching funds to state and federal loans/grants.

Education: MOE allows our educators to keep up with rising costs of increasing numbers of students. Like any business or household recovering from the recession, it is time to put the new roof over the leaking house, and that is what the school system, like many of our households, must do now: catch up cancelled projects, stagnant salaries, which requires funding that requires surpassing MOE.
Our Congressmen need to assist us! Is the state roads that hold up progress in roads and bridges in our county. Is in place before the land is ready for developed. We need to work hard for that it has planned for development in the future so that the infrastructure vote to raise it if you choose.

money, we have to earn the right to spend your money and then you have to this has been done. It is your money that the County spends. We can't print as it's imperative to do long-range planning. We don't want to wake up and

Transportation: The county needs a long term plan for all of the land that it has planned for development in the future so that the infrastructure is in place before the land is ready for developed. We need to work hard for State dollars from the gas tax to make sure we get our share as many times it is the state roads that hold up progress in roads and bridges in our county.

Our Congressmen need to assist us!

Priorities: 1. Growth and how to keep Frederick County from becoming another Montgomery County. 2. Economic Development is high on my list. We need to be able to attract hi-tech businesses and provide incentives for them to want to come here an employ our citizens. 3. Highway 15 and 26, Hayward Road and I 270 and Hwy 85 interchange, all need to be completed. I 270 needs to be widened.

Economic development: In order to get a new business to come to our County we have to have a good tax base and educated work force. They will be looking for infra-structure systems in place to support there need for roads, sewer and water. We are competing against Counties around us so they need to see a united front by the County Council and County Executive. We can not be fighting amongst ourselves if we want them!

Education: Could it be bigger, yes! This is an item I'm very interested in as it's imperative to do long-range planning. We don't want to wake up and then to have to catch-up that is not be fun I believe that we need to have communication with the County Council and the School Board if we want are to make sure we do our best for the best students in the State, our children.

Absence ballots
Who may vote by absentee ballot?
Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot.

How to get an absentee ballot?
You must apply in writing for an absentee ballot. An application may be obtained by telephone, written request, online application at www.elections.state.md.us/voting absentee.html or in person at your local Board of Elections. You must apply for an absentee ballot to be mailed at least seven days before the election. You can apply for an absentee ballot to be emailed to you the Friday prior to the election. When your application is processed and you are determined to be qualified, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you, or you can access it online.

After the deadline for mailing or emailing absentee ballots, requests must be made in person at the Board of Elections. If you have any questions, please contact the Frederick County Elections Board at 301-600-VOTE (301-600-8683).

Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots
If returned in person, the Frederick County Elections Board must receive an absentee ballot no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voters are cautioned that if an absentee ballot has been issued to them they will not be permitted to cast their vote at their polls on Election Day. Also, absentee ballots must be returned by mail or in person directly to the Board of Elections; they cannot be accepted at the polls on Election Day.

Use of the Voters Guide
If you desire, you may check off your choice of candidates and questions and take this guide with you into the voting booth. Please take it back out with you when you leave.

This guide is intended for the use of individual voters only. It should not be marked by organizations or other persons.

Election Day
Visit the Frederick County Board of Elections’ webpage at: www.frederickcountymd.gov/index.aspx?NID=1198

Voters calendar
Thursday, Oct. 23 to Thursday, Oct. 30: early voting at any of three Frederick County early vote centers, open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 28: Deadline to request mailing an absentee ballot

Friday, Oct. 31: Deadline to request emailing an absentee ballot.

Tuesday, Nov. 4: General election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 14: Registration books reopen after general election.

Your polling place
To find your polling place, congressional, state legislative or county council district, go to the Frederick County Board of Elections webpage at: www.frederickcountymd.gov/index.aspx?NID=1198

BUD OTIS
Republican

Campaign website: http://budgbudots.com
Qualifications: I have worked for twelve years in Congress with Congress- man Roscoe G. Bartlett as his Chief of Staff. This office will be dealing with legislation on a daily basis and I will be ready to start from day one since I’ve learned this process while working for you on Cap- ital Hill. I have been a successful business man and understand what it take to make a business run. I share your values!

Priorities: 1. Growth and how to keep Frederick County from becoming another Montgomery County. 2. Economic Develop- ment is high on my list. We need to be able to attract hi-tech businesses and pro- vide incentives for them to want to come here an employ our citizens. 3. Highway 15 and 26, Hayward Road and I 270 and Hwy 85 interchange, all need to be completed. I 270 needs to be widened.

Transportation: The county needs a long term plan for all of the land that it has planned for development in the future so that the infrastructure is in place before the land is ready for developed. We need to work hard for State dollars from the gas tax to make sure we get our share as many times it is the state roads that hold up progress in roads and bridges in our county. Our Congressmen need to assist us!

Revenue: Everyone needs to be ready to review all of our counties expenses and see what can be done with the expense of doing business as a County. The citizens will not support any tax increase if they are not convinced that this has been done. It is your money that the County spends. We can’t print money, we have to earn the right to spend your money and then you have to vote to raise it if you choose.

Economic development: In order to get a new business to come to our County we have to have a good tax base and educated work force. They will be looking for infra-structure systems in place to support there need for roads, sewer and water. We are competing against Counties around us so they need to see a united front by the County Council and County Executive. We can not be fighting amongst ourselves if we want them!

Education: Could it be bigger, yes! This is an item I'm very interested in as it's imperative to do long-range planning. We don't want to wake up and then to have to catch-up that is not be fun I believe that we need to have communication with the County Council and the School Board if we want are to make sure we do our best for the best students in the State, our children.

BILLY SHREVE
Republican

Campaign website: http://BelieveInShreve.com
Qualifications: My Record:
www.BelieveInShreve.com As a Commis- sioner, I created a Large Business & Small Business tax credit to compete with our neighboring Counties regarding Job growth, business retention, and to lower unemployment. Result: More citizens live & work in Frederick County. This BoCC removed over 200 taxes, fees, and policies that made your life more difficult. I get Results!

Priorities: Stop the rising 300% increase in Heroin use, overdoses, and affiliated crimes. I championed the collabora- tive efforts of the County, State, Sher-iffs Department, Health Department, State's Attorney's office, 12 Municipal Gover- nments, and Frederick County Public Schools to educate parents about drugs & drug related issues surrounding their chil- dren. We held 4 events in County High Schools

Transportation: Yes. It is Goal # 6 of the BoCC Strategic Plan. We have been extremely successful in developing partnerships with the City, State, and Private Sectors to build and enhance Roads. This BoCC is making improvements to RT 15/Opossumtown Pike, Rt 270/80 and Interchanges are planned or being built at Rt 15 near Butterfly Lane, Rt 15/Biggs Ford Rd, Rt 70/Meadow Rd, and Planned improvements to RT 75.

Revenue: There is no budget deficit. This BOCC has balanced the budget in each of its first three years, and will balance it again for the upcoming fiscal year without any cut in services to the taxpayers. Many governments make a budget and add more expenses than income and “Hope” some “Change” will magically occur during the year to make the numbers work. Not this BoCC. Our budget is balanced.

Economic development: Goal # 2, of this BoCC's Strategic Plan: Business Predictability. The Government must be stable, trustworthy, predictable, and establishes the same rules for everyone. This BoCC has visited several corpo- rations located in Frederick and asked them if they plan to stay and if they plan to expand. The overwhelming Response “If you, Blaine Young, & Kirby Delauter get elected ... Yes”

Education: Yes. This issue was studied forever by the State and they have set the standard by which we fund schools, MoE. I believe the law needs to change to allow Government to give above MoE, without asking permission. This BoCC had to ask special permission to fund Wi-Fi installation in all schools. It was granted and all County Schools will have Wi-Fi by August 2014. Our Children deserve better!
**FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1**

**Vote for one**

**ELLEN L. BARTLETT, Republican**

Qualifications: I am a Mother and ten (10) children have grown up in our home. We own and I manage over twenty-five (25) rental houses and apartments. I have been a Congressman’s wife for twenty (20) years and took hundreds of Western Maryland residents on trips to the White House and Capitol in Washington, D.C. I was the President of the Frederick County Homemakers Clubs for two (2) years.

Priorities: 1. There are too few employment opportunities as compared to housing.
2. We have very bad traffic congestion.
3. Our beautiful farms are disappearing under houses, apartments and strip malls.

Revenue: Considering that Frederick County is facing a budget deficit, what should be done to meet future needs for services and infrastructure?

**JERRY DONALD, Democrat**

Campaign website: http://electdonald.com

Qualifications: I am a lifelong Frederick County resident. I work in Frederick County, my parents live in Frederick County, and I have children who attend Frederick County Public Schools. I have held a variety of leadership roles such as being the president of the Braddock Heights Community Association. I am an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church and have held a number of positions in the church.

Priorities: 1. The school operating budget is at the state minimum (known as Maintenance of Effort) and has been for several years. We cannot keep funding FCPS at the minimum level and expect it to remain an excellent system.
2. Housing growth must occur where the infrastructure is in place to support it. Growth should not be an expense for all the current residents of the county.
3. Improve county roads.

Revenue: Part of the budget problem should be resolved as the economy rebounds and housing values rise. We can’t overpromise on services. Infrastructure should be paid for by those profiting from growth. Other infrastructure needs have to be paid for through bonds and taxes. If we let our infrastructure deteriorate, we will have a hard time attracting new businesses or even keeping those we have.

Education: Do you think that the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding standard for education adequately meets the needs of Frederick County students? Explain.
FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2
Vote for one

ANNETTE BREILING, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.Breiling4Frederick.com
Qualifications: As founding head of Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville, I've shown vision, leadership, and fiscal responsibility as educator, entrepreneur, business person, and land developer. I've served on several nonprofit boards overseeing budget and policies. I'm active in community service organizations including Human Relations Commission, Rotary, Lions, Coalition for the Homeless, Immigration Coalition.
Priorities: 1) Polarization that is crippling us; 2) Homelessness and poverty - 26% FCPS students in poverty; 3) Environmental sustainability. I seek a compassionate community - fixing a broken decision-making process with respect and caring for ALL voices and needs; fostering job opportunities and affordable housing; allocating available funds to

TONY CHMELIK, Republican

Campaign website: http://www.citizens4FC.com
Qualifications: I live in District 2 and am qualified per the new Charter. I'm an entrepreneur with over 26 successful years of running a construction company. With over 40 years of living here myself and raising my children here, I have a passion for the wise improvement of this county, and for its residents.
Priorities: The implementation of an effective, efficient, and fiscally sound County Council. The protection of property rights balanced with the needs of an ever burgeoning population and the need for improved infrastructure throughout the County, including funding and construction of new schools, roads, and other infrastructure as needed. Continuation of public services necessary to maintain safety etc.

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3
Vote for one

M.C. KEEGAN-AYER, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.mc4district3.com
Qualifications: I've been involved in county issues particularly education, growth and development for twenty years. I've served on many PTAs including the Frederick County PTA Council. I worked on Capitol Hill for 10 years, finishing as a lobbyist. I know the issues and I know advocacy.
Priorities: o Jobs - Frederick's image needs to address our common good; promoting a green county.
          o Transportation: * Assert ourselves strongly in Annapolis to secure badly needed road funding that has been pushed aside, especially for 75. * Require developers to contribute sufficiently to road construction. * Foster new business development to increase tax base. * Support use of shoulder lanes for buses on I-270 to reduce congestion. * Expand mass transit. * Support development of walkable communities.
          o Revenue: * Seek more state funding for roads. * Maintain a strong but reasonable APFO (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) to secure developer contributions. * Charge stormwater remediation fees tied to amount of impervious surface on property. * Support businesses which provide a better revenue per land use and help keep jobs in the county.

* Seek reductions in expenditures.
* Economic development: * Maintain strong Chamber of Commerce, and the county's Business Development and Retention Department (BDRD), including supporting new businesses in site selection, fast-tracking of permit processes, and overall PR. * Support budgets of county nonprofits and schools which provide jobs that uplift the economic position of many served.
* Education: No. The enormous and growing diversity of student learning needs requires more staffing in the existing FCPS budget than is currently available. A high school English teacher cannot provide adequate interactive feedback to over 40 students in one class while still teaching two other English classes and 2 additional Latin classes. Salaries are also not competitive with neighboring counties.
DENNY SHAFER, Republican

Qualifications: I have conservative values and am a life-long resident of Frederick County. I’ve worked with various organizations which required preparing budgets, organization and supervising. I worked my way up from truck driver to senior management in a very successful wholesale business requiring common sense, compromise and interface with customers and employees.

Priorities: a. Education - We need to supply funds to give students the technology and education to compete with their peers. b. We need to keep the county business-friendly in order to entice continued movement into our area. c. Taxes - Do everything possible to maintain real estate taxes at a reasonable level to keep residents from leaving Frederick County.

Transportation: With population and business growth come more vehicles. The county along with the state needs to make intelligent and logical decisions to make sure this is done in a timely manner.

Revenue: Increases in taxes should be our last consideration. Close scrutiny of funds requests and justifications will be necessary.

Economic development: Avoid as much red tape as possible. Keep fees reasonable.

Education: The MOE is a reasonable starting point. Any special requests need to be judged individually and on their own merits.

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

JESSICA FITZWATER, Democrat

Campaign website: http://jessicafitzwater.com

Qualifications: I will bring critical thinking skills, a strong work ethic, and dedication to open and transparent government to the council. My leadership experience includes serving on the Board of Directors of the Frederick Arts Council, the Frederick County Teachers Association, and the Frederick Symphony Orchestra. In 2013 I completed the Emerge MD program which prepares Democratic women to run for office.

Priorities: Excellent schools. Investing in public education supports our most important resource: our children. Responsible growth. We need a balanced approach to growth that considers the rights of all parties while adhering to smart growth principles. Open and effective government. Establish our new charter government with a culture of respect, inclusion and transparency.

Transportation: Traffic congestion affects our residents and businesses. County officials must partner with state officials to secure funding for transportation improvements, including the “Bus on Shoulders” program on I-270, increased commuter rail and bus service, and Rt. 15 improvements. Roads and public transit must be a high priority consideration when planning for growth and development in Frederick County.

Revenue: Frederick County is the eighth wealthiest county in Maryland. If we’re responsible, we can use existing resources to maintain our high quality of life. We can start by eliminating “in lieu of” fees for developers that pay far less than the true impact on the county, examining privatization decisions that are not cost-effective, and not selling county assets, such as Montevue/Citizens, at a loss.

Economic development: Promoting economic development takes more than putting “Open for Business” signs on the county lines. Attracting good companies includes having excellent schools and a high quality of life, along with creative incentives, a revived business advisory group, support for the Frederick Innovative Technology Center, and the restoration of the Office of Economic Development.

Education: MOE funding, year after year, is absolutely not enough to maintain top schools and well-prepared students. Investing in education is investing in our future. Excellent public schools not only prepare our students for a global and changing society but they also drive economic development, support job growth, and improve our quality of life. Our students deserve more and we can do better.

ROBERT ‘BOB’ LAWRENCE, Republican

Campaign website: http://www.lawrenceforcouncil.com

Qualifications: I have lived in Frederick County for 42 years, 28 of which were spent in Frederick City and have extensive knowledge of the issues the County faces. I served as Chairperson of the 2004 “Comprehensive Plan Citizens Steering Committee” for the City of Frederick. I served 3 years on the Frederick County Board of Appeals. I am currently a member of the Frederick County Planning Commission.

Priorities: 1) SCHOOLS- Every student should be educated by highly qualified teachers in equally technologically advanced classrooms. I would increase MOE above current levels and provide increased $ for technology improvements and STEM education. 2) JOBS-I will strive to achieve that every citizen should be able to “Live, Work and Play” in their chosen community if they so desire. 3) SAFETY-Increase funding

Transportation: By ensuring that development occurs under the State of Maryland “Smart Growth” policies such as developing within Priority Funding Areas the County will be able to leverage additional State funding. We also should continue the use of Developer Rights and Responsibilities Agreements to ensure that developers contribute a fair share to the transportation systems surrounding their developments.

Revenue: The key to eliminating the budget deficit is to increase revenues, not to decrease services. By bringing higher wage jobs in fields such as biotech, cyber security and R&D, we will increase revenues from a larger corporate, business and personal tax base. We must be proactive in leveraging funds from other governmental sources and public/private partnerships for infrastructure financing.

Economic development: The County must take advantage of its proximity to the Wash/Balt corridor, its already in place transportation network (I270, I70 and the airport), its highly educated and motivated workforce and its extremely desirable quality of life to entice businesses in the emerging fields of biotech, cyber security etc to locate here. We may want to revisit economic incentives on a targeted basis.

Education: No- As the husband of a retired teacher and the parent of two daughters who currently teach I know well the issues our students and staff face daily. I propose that as a minimum MOE should be indexed to the previous years Consumer Price Index (CPI). The County government should also fund one time technology advancements in order to create equality in every school be it new or old.
FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

KIRBY DELAUTER, Republican

Campaign website: http://www.kirbydelauter.com

Qualifications: I am a taxpayer in Frederick County.

Priorities: Solid Waste - I support WTE but only with a cost sharing partner and only if the numbers show it is feasible. Business Friendly Policies - Business is the backbone of the County. Without private business the tax base is decreased which raises the tax rate for the remaining payers. Business needs predictability. Helping Seniors - reducing taxes on the Senior population to help them remain here

Transportation: The county should allow the private sector to fund growth when necessary. A prime example is the Meadow road interchange. The State has not provided funds to build this road. A private developer stepped up and will provide the needed road, at their cost and no cost to the taxpayer. The New Market by pass is similar to this. Developer funded, and maintained 80/20 by the County and New Market.

Revenue: Fiscal restraint and continued outsourcing of functions that can be found in the yellow pages. An example is the $400,000 sewer camera truck that was to be purchased by the County. After review of the data, it saved $5.5 Million of taxpayer funds to outsource this service rather than do it as a County “in house” function. That is just one of many examples.

Economic development: Lowering taxes and providing a stable, predictable environment for business. Business needs to be treated as an ally not and adversary. This board has streamlined permitting, eliminated the excise tax, which saved a local business in Walkersville $4500 and also saved St. John Catholic School $75,000. Help make business profitable and that rising tide will lift all boats.

Education: Yes, MOE does meet the needs of the students. The issue with MOE is that it is progressive, each year the pct. increases exponentially which is unsustainable. The better way to fund is by zero based budget. Also, this BoCC has funded more school construction than previous boards, we have funded over $3 million in technology, and made systemic repairs a reality as well.

MARK LONG, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.marklong.us

Qualifications: I have the ability to work with people, deliberately and methodically, to examine issues or problems, and to develop reasonable and sustainable solutions. I am not driven by a narrow ideology. I'm willing to listen to and consider a broad spectrum of ideas and opinions when addressing issues. I'm prepared to work diligently for all of the people of Frederick County and for a better future.

Priorities: Excellent public education. Strong fiscal management and economic development. Responsible planning for growth and transportation. I'll add protecting our most vulnerable citizens, and preserving our environment. It isn't about choosing one or the other if we understand that they are all connected, work collaboratively and learn from the successes and failures in other communities.

Transportation: Frederick County residents and businesses count on good, safe roads, and they have to count on government to plan, build and maintain them. This is a bigger challenge in a growing county, and I support restoring a strong roads element to the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance as part of a broader approach that understands that transportation planning can’t be an afterthought to development.

Revenue: Managing the budget is a top priority for local government, and every budget is about choices. To reflect our values and serve our community, the budget must be managed responsibly by a county executive and council that communicate and work together effectively. Good planning is integral to solid economic development and efficient public services.

Economic development: Our elected officials must be strong advocates for the county, and I will be. I support the Dept of Business Development and Retention, and the Frederick Innovative and Technology Center (our business incubator). We know that the kind of businesses and jobs we want here choose attractive and safe communities, with good schools, a well educated work force and a high quality of life.

Education: No. The problem is not that PCPS might receive MOE funding for one or two budget years when times are tough, but that the BOC has funded education at the lowest level allowed by law, for six years in a row. If we don't want that to be ten years in a row, we have to elect leaders that know education is our most important investment and vital to our quality of life and economic prosperity.
DUTIES: Members of the Board of Education determine and enforce policies that govern the Frederick County Public Schools. Among other responsibilities, the Board of Education appoints the superintendent of schools; initiates, reviews, and discusses educational issues; prepares and requests annual capital and operating budgets; and receives funding from county, state and federal sources.

TERM: Four years; no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide in a nonpartisan election.

Questions
Qualifications: What are your qualifications for this office?
Priorities: What are the top three issues that you would like to address?

Charter schools: What is your position on charter schools? Explain.
Quality education: What are the key elements in maintaining a quality school system?
Funding: Does the maintenance of effort standard provide adequate funding for the school system? What, if any, changes would you recommend?

LIZ BARRETT

Campaign website: http://www.barrettforboe.com
Qualifications: I am committed to continuous improvement to create a more efficient and effective school system that ensures every child meets her or his potential. As a leader in government and now in business, I bring proven skills in policy development, budget development and oversight, public outreach, IT governance, and consensus building. I’m a community advocate, volunteer, PTA member, and mom.
Priorities: 1. Create a strategic plan with performance metrics. Align the operating budget with that plan. Devise a technology strategy and budget, and align it with the strategic plan. 2. Put people first by closing gaps in student achievement and by ensuring teachers and staff are respected and compensated as true professionals. 3. Grow local control via advocacy and by establishing local best practices.
Charter schools: I oppose vouchers or other efforts to divert public education funding to private or for-profit ventures. Public education must always be free, public, and open to all. There is room in public education for free public charter schools that can fulfill unique needs. MD public charter school law has worked well in Frederick County to ensure only well-considered public charter schools are approved.
Quality education: 1. Sound strategic and budget governance. 2. Attracting and retaining quality teachers and staff who are supported and respected as professionals. 3. Family and public participation. 4. Constant focus on meeting the needs of all students. 5. Robust curriculum that includes music and the arts, world languages, sciences, literature, history, music, and physical education.
Funding: MOE is insufficient. Public education must be viewed as an investment in our children, our families, and our community. Adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding of our schools is among my top priorities. I will bring civility, clarity, transparency, and strategy to the budget process. We need detailed budgets and plans to stretch every dollar. Our children and taxpayers deserve nothing less.

COLLEEN E.CUSIMANO

Campaign website: http://www.colleenecusimano.com
Qualifications: I am a mother of 3 - all have attended FCPS. My family and I have lived in Frederick County for over 24 years. I have spent many years volunteering and serving our community - PTA, Girl Scouts of America, sports teams, and schools. I have worked with computer systems for many years - including 2 years at FCPS. After years of raising varying concerns, I chose to run for the BOE.
Priorities: (1) Providing the best education and school environment to the children of our community. Education is not one-size-fits-all. (2) Retaining local control of our school systems - the ability to set goals and provide great educational opportunities for our students and staff will not come from heavy-handed demands of the state and fed. (3) Ensuring that resources for schools reach the classroom.
Charter schools: I support charter schools. Many leaders across the political spectrum - including President Obama have recognized Charter Schools as our nation’s greatest hope for innovation in education. They can be a model of grass-roots change - most initiated by parents or teachers seeking to find a way to rise to the many challenges of educating our young people.
Quality education: Having the highest quality teachers and staff in our schools is key. The people who meet and teach our students every day are on the front-line. We need to provide opportunities and support for them so that they may continue to provide opportunities and support for our students. It is also important to have safe and welcoming learning environments, great materials, and a clear focus on our goals.
Funding: No MOE funding represents just over half of our budget. Local funding has been flat over the past several years, flat funding at the Federal and State level would be a gift of the highest measure. Our funding from state and federal sources are shrinking while the mandates and needs are growing. I have been working to increase the understanding of our state and federal leaders. We can do better.

MIKE FERRELL

Qualifications: I am a 37 year Air Force and Air National Guard veteran and the father of an eight year old elementary school student. My military career has ingrained the core values of integrity, service before self and excellence I have two Masters Degrees however my ability to encourage teamwork in finding practical solutions without divisive controversy remains a highly valuable skill.
Priorities: Management of student populations (Community development), classroom size and portables. Common Core. Realistic strategic plans for budgets, salaries and technology in our classrooms.
Charter schools: I believe that Charter schools have a distinct value and are misunderstood by the public. I support the Charter schools & believe they should be given the same funding per student which is given to each student attending public school. Most citizens have no idea the charter schools are run under the umbrella of our public school system and operate at $8,500 per student versus $12,500 per student.
Quality education: We must have a budget which provides maintenance for our schools, salaries for our teachers and staff and technology for our students. Frederick County has a tremendous future and ensuring we have the best schools and teachers in the state requires creative solutions. Security for students and staff and a strategic plan which addresses older schools as well as new facilities. Parent involvement!
Funding: No. Maintenance of Effort cannot sustain the costs involved with the increasing demand and wear and tear on our schools. We must find common ground with the new Charter government to increase the budget. Currently the Board of Education is at odds with the County Commissioners resulting in a budget standoff. There is room for give and take on both sides to break this deadlock and move forward.
MILLICENT HALL

Campaign website: http://www.hallforboe.org/
Qualifications: I am a stay at home mom with 2 young children in FCPS, which I feel is my most important qualification. I also have a Bachelor's of Science in Public Administration. I have a few unique experiences that will help guide me while on the board. I attended 14 different schools as a child and have firsthand knowledge of the benefits or early intervention, as I have dyslexia.
Priorities: My top 3 priorities are: 1. Community involvement 2. Advocating for early intervention for special needs children 3. Advocating for adequate funding for FCPS
Charter schools: This is a complicated issue for me. I value parental choice, but I would rather see the effort and funding that goes into charter schools go into our traditional school system. I am not “opposed” to charter schools, but I do endorse our traditional school system.
Quality education: Quality education comes from quality schools. Quality schools must have quality staff. In order to attract/maintain quality staff we must pay a quality wage and offer quality benefits. In order to pay our staff competitive wages we need proper funding. Proper funding will also ensure that more services for students can be offered. Finally, offering a full range of arts and PE classes is key.
Funding: MOE funding is hurting our schools. MOE is intended to protect the schools from their budget being slashed but it makes no adjustments for inflation or other regular cost increases. MOE funding doesn’t cover any new unfunded mandates and is leaving our schools with less then they need for basic operations. We must act to end the constant MOE funding level.

KENNETH KERR

Campaign website: http://kerr4boe.com
Qualifications: I am a college English professor and department chair. I have a doctorate in education and 20 years in the college classroom. This was preceded by a 10-year career in high tech. Prior to that I was an elementary school teacher (and before that—an FCPS bus driver).
Priorities: Respect for the professionalism of our teachers, responsible budgeting of the taxpayers' investment, and successful students who go on to college and careers.
Charter schools: I favor charter schools that want to take on difficult issues and at-risk populations. A charter school focused on English Language Learners, students on the Autism spectrum, first in their family to attempt college, behavior issues. But to simply duplicate the public school's effort is not something I support. Data show no difference in charter-student performance. Let's focus on all schools.
Quality education: Teachers are key. We need to respect them as qualified professionals who have their students' best interests in mind and trust them to do their jobs, and give them the professional development and autonomy needed to work with the individual personalities they find in their classroom. Second is a modern learning environment with current technology that will prepare students for college and career.
Funding: No. I advocate strategic planning with broad public participation. Let’s decide together what kind of school system we want as a county, set specific objectives we can agree upon, and then commit to fund the schools at a level necessary to achieve the objectives we agreed to.

APRIL FLEMING MILLER

Campaign website: http://www.amiller4BOE.com
Qualification: We are facing unprecedented changes to the educational landscape of our county and we need experienced leadership to guide FCPS. There is no time for a learning curve, our students are too important. My focus of the past four years on the BOE: increasing community, business and family partnerships & involvement with the school system, legislative activism, fighting for teacher and student needs.
Priorities: Create high academic standards preparing students for life and career focusing on student centered learning -Provide equal opportunities for all students to learn -Collaborate to form partnerships to promote the shared educational vision of the community -Manage resources effectively while being accountable -Be legislative advocates for education -Continue to integrate technology in our schools
Charter schools: My voting record is 1-1 for the two recent charter school applications. Maryland law is clear about how applications are considered by school boards, regardless of funding. I weigh my decisions based on the quality of the applications presented. I support research-based, innovative educational programs and opportunities for all of our students to enrich the educational choices for our community.
Quality education: A quality school system starts with every decision made being focused on the impact on the student and staff in the classroom. We should create learning opportunities and a supportive environment for staff and students while building a relationship with families and the community. The BOE should continue to fight to maintain local control of the educational decisions that keep FCPS innovative.
Funding: MOE attempts to stabilize school funding, reducing financial uncertainty. It is not working. There is no incentive to help fund the recent sweeping educational changes. Expenses go up, demands/mandates on the schools increase, greater student needs & revenue is flat. Help fix the law, explore public-private partnerships, synergies & alternative funding sources. Advocate full funding of mandates.
STATE SENATOR — LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3

Vote for one

COREY STOTTLEMYER, Republican

Campaign website: http://www.coreystottlemyer.com

Qualifications: I believe Maryland is on the wrong track. We need a new and better way of doing business in MD. As a father, a husband, a homeowner, and someone balancing life and work, I understand many of the challenges and responsibilities that we all face every day. For those challenges I don’t understand, I want to listen, to learn, and to help make a difference. We deserve more from our elected officials.

Priorities: Demonstrate an openness and ability to offer new ideas, respectfully challenge the status quo, build consensus among citizen groups and levels of government. Actively remove barriers to creating jobs and improve opportunities for everyone. Increase transparency so taxpayers know how dollars are being spent. Protect the rights of every citizen with care for our vulnerable populations.

Economy: We need to stop raising barriers to creating jobs. Every tax hike and new regulation gives business owners another reason to pick up and move to Virginia and people working in Maryland a reason to look for a house in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or Virginia. We need to be talking with business owners about how to create an environment that encourages investment and entrepreneurship.

Transportation: For many years, the Transportation Trust Fund was raided to pay other expenses. That left the state with roads in need of repair. Democrats passed a regressive gas tax. Even after that, almost all of those revenues go to the state with little money coming back to counties and municipalities to repair the aging roads. We need a more equitable share of those dollars.

Environment: We all want to live in a clean and healthy state with a focus on sustainability. Efforts to preserve the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay, our open lands, and the state as a whole for future generations is important and our efforts must be based in science not politics. Also, we need to reexamine previous efforts to ensure that the original goals are being met.
RONALD N. YOUNG, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.SenatorRonYoung.com
Qualifications: I am presently the State Senator. I previously served for years on the Bd. of Alderman of Frederick City and sixteen years as Mayor. I served as Deputy Secretary of the MD Department of Natural Resources and as Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary of the MD Department of Planning. I worked three years as a Town Planner and have extensive experience in community Service and the Business world.

Priorities: Bring resources back to Frederick. Keeping MD number one in Education, income and upward economic mobility for women. I want to bring more jobs to MD, improve transportation and environmental sustainability. Clean energy and the protection of individual rights and identity protection are personal objectives. I feel we need a fairer tax structure and more efficient management of resources.

Economy: We need to streamline regulations and promote the growth of existing businesses. We need stronger efforts to bring back manufacturing and to repatriate companies that have left the country. We need to promote a closer relationship with business and the educational system to prepare for the jobs of the future.

Transportation: We should establish separate funding streams for transit and roads.

Gas taxes should principally be used for roads and regional taxes established for transit. We need better transit between Baltimore and Washington and there should be transit connections between Frederick and Baltimore and Washington and the same for Annapolis. We also need more public-private transportation options.

Environment: Cost-benefit analysis on how we develop clean energy would be beneficial. We can achieve zero energy in both residential and commercial buildings. We must stop polluting the bay at the source and increase funding for cleaning it. We need to be more innovative in how we do this. Environmental sustainability is a necessity.

MICHAEL HOUGH, Republican

Campaign website: http://houghfosenate.com
Qualifications: I currently live in Brunswick, with my wife Jo and three children. I am a veteran of the United States Air Force and work at the American Legislative Exchange Council, whose mission is to advocate for limited government. Since 2010, I have been a member of the House of Delegates.

Priorities: My priorities are cutting taxes, opposing Obamacare, and cutting wasteful government spending. I am the only candidate who has consistently voted against tax increases and opposed Obamacare. I am also the only candidate who has opposed O'Malley's budgets. In addition, I am strongly pro-Second Amendment and pro-life.

Economy: The number one problem in Maryland is high taxes. In my four years as a Delegate, I have never voted to raise taxes. Unfortunately, Senator David Brinkley has voted 46 times to raise taxes and fees. We need a tax climate that brings more jobs into our state.

Transportation: I voted against the gas tax increase. Senator David Brinkley co-sponsored legislation (SB 652, 2013) to increase the gas tax in Frederick County. With the lion's share of our current transportation dollars unfairly going to fund mass transit in urban areas, I am completely opposed to raising the gas tax.

Transportation dollars unfairly going to fund mass transit in urban areas, I am completely opposed to raising the gas tax.

Environment: Unfortunately environmental extremists have taken over this agenda in Annapolis. The nutrient management legislation has really hurt farmers in Frederick & Carroll Counties. We need to stop piling new environmental regulations on the backs of struggling farmers. In addition, I strongly oppose the recently enacted rain tax.

DAN RUPLI, Democrat

Qualifications: I was taught to live my life in a way that would help create a “place at the political table” for all of our people, including the least powerful. The rights of middle class families are evaporating in the face of exploding wealth and income inequity between the upper 1 percent and everyone else. Exploding corporate influence is turning our elections into a bidding process. This must be changed.

Priorities: We must protect our green and beautiful District from over development, and embrace “smart growth” policies that will protect the agricultural activities that make our area so spectacular. We must strengthen public education so that our students can compete in a world economy, particularly in Math and Science. Civility and common purpose must be restored to our political process.

Economy: I would support a State funded program based on the Tennessee model that would give State residents two free years tuition at local community colleges and trade schools. Increased education opportunity and economic recovery are two sides of the same political coin. We must develop a far more aggressive plan to make the transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy like solar and wind.

Transportation: I would utilize the median strip on I-270 to construct a state of the art high speed monorail system connecting Frederick City to the Shady Grove Metro station in Gaithersburg, alleviating terrible morning and evening gridlock caused by commuters from Central Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. I would ask those jurisdictions and the “feds” to all help with its funding.

Environment: The water quality of the Chesapeake Bay continues to offer the greatest environmental challenge to the State.
DUTIES: Representatives share responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation’s laws as provided for in the U.S. Constitution. They may also conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives. Representatives have the responsibility for determining whether a public official should be tried if accused of a crime.

HOW ELECTED: The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts that are reapportioned after each decennial census. All seats in the House of Representatives are up for election in every even-numbered year. A representative must be at least 25 years of age and must have been a citizen at least seven years.

Questions
Qualifications: How do your qualifications and experience prepare you for the duties of this office?

Priorities: If elected, what would be your priorities for this office?

Economy: What policies would you support to improve job growth, strengthen the national economy, and reduce income disparities?

Immigration: What changes, if any, would you support in immigration policy?

Environment: What are the most significant environmental challenges facing the nation and what policies would you support to meet these challenges?

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6
Vote for one

DAN BONGINO, Republican

Campaign website: http://www.bongino.com

Qualifications: Spending over a decade behind the scenes in the Secret Service, I saw the damage done to our representative form of government firsthand. Witnessing this corruption left me with only two options: stand by or act. I chose to act.

Priorities: There is much work to be done, but my main priorities are the following: 1. Repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with a leaner, patient-centric, model that empowers healthcare consumers, not networks of bureaucrats. 2. Increasing take-home pay for middle-class Marylanders through dramatic tax reforms which will incentivize growth and productivity.

JOHN K. DELANEY, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.delaneyforcongress.com

Qualifications: I founded and led two successful New York Stock Exchange listed companies prior to taking office in 2013. As an entrepreneur, I’ve seen how globalization and technology changed our economy and believe we must help our workers and businesses compete. This pragmatic approach has led to over 30 Republicans supporting my infrastructure bill, which is the largest bipartisan jobs bill in Congress.

Priorities: My top priority is facilitating private sector job growth with a comprehensive competitiveness agenda. For more middle class jobs we need to 1) rebuild our crumbling infrastructure 2) invest in research and education 3) develop new energy sources 4) pass comprehensive immigration reform and 5) establish fiscal certainty with a grand bargain deficit reduction deal.

Economy: For a healthier middle class we have to create a high-skill and high-tech economy. Our global competitors understand there’s a role for government and are investing in infrastructure, education, and research. A sense of fairness should also compel us to raise the minimum wage, support the social safety net, and implement measures like the Buffet Rule.

Immigration: I support the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the Senate by a 68-32 vote and has been endorsed by business, labor, and religious groups. We have a moral and economic obligation to fix our system, which leaves millions in the shadows and hurts our economy. Non-partisan analysis has found that immigration reform will reduce the deficit and grow our GDP.

Environment: Climate change is the environmental challenge of our generation and as a coastal state Maryland is especially vulnerable. I support a market-driven carbon tax, which allows private sector ingenuity, not regulation, to guide us to a cleaner future. We should also reject the Keystone XL Pipeline, support investments in renewable energy and make polluters pay.
GEORGE GLUCK, Green

Campaign website: http://GeorgeGluck.com

Qualifications: According to the Congressional Research Service, “the duties carried out by Members ... include representation [I live in District 6], legislation [needing analytic ability and attention to detail], constituent service [my staff will include members of several parties, empathetic to constituent needs] and education [I will impart my recent economic and political education to my constituents].”

Priorities: On April 22, 2014 the New York Times published an article announcing that “The American Middle Class Is No Longer the World's Richest.” If elected, my priorities would be to offer and vote for legislation that would reverse the trend that brought us to this point and reestablish ours as the preeminent middle class in the world.

Economy: With the prospect of a possible second great recession looming, there is a need to create more demand by increasing the income of families that will spend most of that increase. Most immediately, that means extending unemployment insurance payments and increasing expenditures for infrastructure improvements like repair of highways, bridges, and water, electricity and communications systems.

Immigration: Being an immigrant, I agree with Rep. Gutierrez: “We need to have a system of legal immigration that employers actually use so that we have control over who comes and who is here and... those people already here into the system if they are crime free and play by the rules. And we need enforcement that makes sure that [all] are playing by a clear set of rules that are evenly enforced.”

Environment: Our significant environmental challenges can be traced to the use of fossil fuels. We should immediately price carbon to reflect its real cost to society. We should also begin a renewable energy “Manhattan Project,” which produced the first atomic bomb in about 5 years. This program would have the added benefit of producing thousands of new jobs and producing a sustainable energy infrastructure.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

Vote for one

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.vanhollen.org

Qualifications: Member of Congress (2003-Present); Ranking Member, House Budget Committee; Co-Chair, Bipartisan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus; Co-Chair, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Caucus; Co-Chair, Bipartisan Childhood Cancer Caucus, Maryland State Senate (1994-2002); Maryland House of Delegates (1990-1994); Senior Advisor on Federal Affairs, Maryland Governor (1988-1990).

Priorities: My top priorities are job creation and economic growth; making priority investments in education, infrastructure, clean energy, and medical and scientific research; ensuring that we protect and strengthen Medicare, Social Security, and essential safety net programs; and putting the country on a fiscally sustainable path to long-term deficit and debt reduction.

Economy: We must power economic growth and build the ladder of opportunity to shared prosperity. That requires investments in education, infrastructure, and scientific research - for example, federal investment helped develop the internet. We should reform the tax code and raise the minimum wage. These efforts will strengthen our global competitiveness and boost jobs and wages.

Immigration: I support comprehensive immigration reform. I will continue to push for passage of HR15, which will strengthen border security, streamline our visa system, and create an earned path to citizenship to bring the undocumented out of the shadows. This strategy will boost job growth, reduce our deficits, and strengthen our national security.

Environment: Climate change presents enormous challenges and an important opportunity. By investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental restoration, we can address climate change while creating jobs here at home. In Maryland, we must protect the Chesapeake Bay. I’ve fought for federal support for clean up efforts including assistance for farmers to address nutrient runoff.

DAVE WALLACE, Republican

Campaign website: http://wallaceforamerica.com

No response received
Most of the delegate districts are three-member at-large districts, but some areas of the state have a district subdivided into three single-member districts, or a one single-member district and one multi-member district.

**Questions**

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

**Priorities:** If elected, what would be your priorities for this office?

**Economy:** What initiatives would you support for strengthening Maryland's economy and increasing jobs?

**Transportation:** What are your transportation priorities and how should they be funded?

**Environment:** What are the most significant environmental challenges facing Maryland, and what policies would you support to meet those challenges?

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**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**DUTIES:** Delegates share responsibility with state senators for enactment of the state's laws as provided for in the constitution of the state of Maryland.

**SALARY:** $45,207 annual base.

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

**HOW ELECTED:** There are three delegates for each of the 47 Senate districts for a state total of 141 delegates. Most of the delegate districts are three-member at-large districts, but some areas of the state have a district subdivided into three single-member districts, or a one single-member district and one multi-member district.

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**HOUSE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3A**

Vote for no more than two

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**CAROL L. KRIMM, Democrat**

Campaign website: http://www.carolkrimm.net

**Qualifications:** I have spent the last 12 years in public service as Alderman for The City of Frederick, a legislative staff member in the General Assembly, and an active member of many civic groups and commissions. These experiences have given me an intimate knowledge of District 3A issues and how the legislative and budget processes work on a city, county and statewide basis.

**Priorities:** Education—provide children a stellar education from pre-K to college including enhancing higher education opportunities locally; Economic growth - streamline state government processes for businesses to ease expansion and location in Maryland; Transportation—decrease traffic congestion while expanding mass transit options; Seniors—ensure programs support their health, well being, and dignity.

**Economy:** Maryland's highly educated and innovative workforce makes the State well positioned to take advantage of rapid growth in the economy's technology sector. We need to aggressively recruit businesses in the biotech, cybersecurity, and information technology industries. I will foster State support of and collaboration with business incubators, local colleges, and small businesses.

**Transportation:** Maintaining current infrastructure is critical for public safety and protecting taxpayer investment.

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**PAUL SMITH, Republican**

Campaign website: http://www.cpaulsmith.com

**Qualifications:** I have been a Frederick County Commissioner and Frederick City Alderman. I have operated a general law practice since 1978, including handling hundreds of matters involving family law, bankruptcy, real estate, probate, civil rights and commercial litigation. My skills and experience enable me to understand complex issues and advocate for sound legislation.

**Priorities:** The biggest issue facing the Legislature is to limit the increasing cost and size of government. Recent budget increases ($1.5 Billion in FY 2014) are too high and are not sustainable; they will hurt families and businesses if they continue. The State must reduce the excessive cost of stormwater management requirements and nitrogen offsets.

**Economy:** The presence of the federal government gives Maryland one of the strongest job bases in the nation. But this is being undermined by the State's excessive and continually increasing budgets. The Maryland budget must be reined in and kept at a level rate, except for increases that accompany population growth. Maryland must change its taxes and policies to become business-friendly.

**Transportation:** The main transportation needs for Frederick, all of which require State funding, are: Building the Monocacy Blvd. interchange on US 15; adding another lane north and south on US 15 through Frederick City; improving the Rt. 55 interchange on I-270; improving Rt. 75; adding a westbound lane on I-70 (from I-270 to Mt. Phillips Rd.); and widening the Rt. 351 bridge over US 340.

**Environment:** We need to clean our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.Current State policies are too expensive, are not cost-effective and are based upon some flawed scientific analysis. Those policies must be amended. All Bay watershed states must adopt and enforce the same policies in order to succeed. Otherwise the current policies will not clean the Bay, but they will drive jobs out of state.
YOUNG

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG, Democrat

Campaign website: http://karenyoungfordelegate.com

Qualifications: As a long-term citizen volunteer, I have a deep understanding of community needs. Serving as an Alderman provided solid legislative and advocacy experience and afforded me the opportunity to work collaboratively with all levels of government. Three decades of private sector experience gives me key insights into the requisites for business success and responsible budgeting and financial planning.

Priorities: Constituent service, keeping our education system #1 in the country, developing a more competitive economy resulting in job growth, aligning land use policies with transportation planning, health and safety, creating a more sustainable environment, equality issues, affordable housing, ensuring that our senior population can spend their retirement years in MD, and financial sustainability.

Transportation: Expediting completion of 15/Monocacy Boulevard interchange; updating studies for 70, 270 and 15 moving toward three lane improvements near the city of Frederick; continue to add accel/decal lanes to Rte. 15 around City (allowing for easier merging); increased commuter bus and MARC service; funded by a diversified mix of user fees, public/private partnerships and innovative financial instruments.

Environment: Ensuring environmental justice and healthy neighborhoods for all Marylanders; improving air quality; addressing the threat of climate change; protecting the cleanliness of the Chesapeake Bay and our water resources; reducing our energy consumption; promoting smart growth; conserving open spaces and farmland; guaranteeing safety in emerging energy solutions; efficient and safe waste elimination.

Economy: Relentlessly improve public education, simplify regulations, expedite permitting, reduce unnecessary costs of doing business, establish training programs aligned to growth industries, focus infrastructure investments on the most promising opportunities for expansion and productivity; policies to support emerging growth companies, protect and enhance MD's higher education and research institutions.

VICTORIA WILKINS, Republican

Qualifications: In the '90's, I was the Chief Legislative Assistant for two members of the House of Delegates. From 1995-1999, I served in the House of Delegates. In 2003, Governor Ehrlich appointed me as the Legislative Liaison for the Maryland Department of the Environment. My 10 plus years of work in Annapolis as well as my work in the private sector prepare me for the duties of this office.

Priorities: My first priority is to represent the citizens of District 3A. Supporting policies that remove barriers to job growth and reducing taxes are both high priorities for me. The state budget has been growing at an alarming rate. Reigning in state spending is crucial to our future. Addressing transportation needs and supporting local control of schools are also top priorities.

Economy: Taxes need to be reduced. Marylanders are fleeing the state, and businesses are closing in large part due to the high tax burden that Maryland places on its citizens and job creators. Business owners are frustrated with overarching and inconsistent business regulations. Let's make Maryland a partner with business rather than penalizing their success by taxing and regulating it to death.

Transportation: Widening I-270 is of paramount importance to the citizens of Frederick who travel that corridor on a daily basis. Additionally, bridges on US 15 need to be widened to improve traffic flow. These can be funded with existing revenues provided that revenues are prioritized for road construction.

Environment: Improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay remains a challenge. While measures have been undertaken locally, there are parts of six states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. I support a partnership with those states to enlist their strong and continued support for cleanup efforts.

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG, Democrat

Qualifications: As a long-term citizen volunteer, I have a deep understanding of community needs. Serving as an Alderman provided solid legislative and advocacy experience and afforded me the opportunity to work collaboratively with all levels of government. Three decades of private sector experience gives me key insights into the requisites for business success and responsible budgeting and financial planning.

Priorities: Constituent service, keeping our education system #1 in the country, developing a more competitive economy resulting in job growth, aligning land use policies with transportation planning, health and safety, creating a more sustainable environment, equality issues, affordable housing, ensuring that our senior population can spend their retirement years in MD, and financial sustainability.

Transportation: Expediting completion of 15/Monocacy Boulevard interchange; updating studies for 70, 270 and 15 moving toward three lane improvements near the city of Frederick; continue to add accel/decal lanes to Rte. 15 around City (allowing for easier merging); increased commuter bus and MARC service; funded by a diversified mix of user fees, public/private partnerships and innovative financial instruments.

Environment: Ensuring environmental justice and healthy neighborhoods for all Marylanders; improving air quality; addressing the threat of climate change; protecting the cleanliness of the Chesapeake Bay and our water resources; reducing our energy consumption; promoting smart growth; conserving open spaces and farm land; guaranteeing safety in emerging energy solutions; efficient and safe waste elimination.

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3B

Vote for one

WILLIAM ‘BILL’ FOLDEN, Republican

No response received
KATHY AFZALI, Republican

Campaign website: http://DelegateKathyAfzali.com
Qualifications: The most important qualification for running for office is to believe that you can make a difference. With all of the ups and downs of being a Conservative in an ultra-blue state, I think I do. I passed estate tax relief and voter reforms in a state that thought common sense was a right wing conspiracy.
Priorities: I’ve always worked hard but now I am better at working smart. My priorities: Continue to educate my colleagues on the virtues of lower taxes and more effective government. Also, student privacy, reforming foster parenting/family reunification laws, reminding Annapolis that it can say “NO” to federal mandates, fighting for small business.
Economy: The formula is easy. Other states like Texas are leading the nation in jobs and economic growth. It’s not complicated. Annapolis needs to get out of the way and let the people do what we do best-innovation, work hard, and prosper. Washington and Annapolis elitists hamstring that!
Transportation: The Delegation should always seek state funding for road priorities that the commissioners/council place. Occasionally, like in Libertytown, I have taken the initiative and asked the county leadership to put my constituents on a prioritized list. Then it’s my job to get the state to step up. That’s the hard part!
Environment: This question is difficult to answer because it’s laced with an agenda. Mentioning “environment,” usually means someone is using unscientific data to further regulate farmers or tell citizens to pay a “rain tax.” Over-development (I loathe it) is an environmental/quality of life issue, but can’t begin to address this in 50 words.

KELLY SCHULZ, Republican

Campaign website: http://www.delegate.schulz.com
Qualifications: As a member of the House of Delegates for the past four years, I have identified many issues that need be addressed. Throughout my first term, I have been effective in getting legislation passed that directly affects our community while serving as a strong leader for Frederick County. From decreasing business regulations to protecting crime victims, these bills have made a difference.
Priorities: Taxes! This is the number one issue that my constituents are talking about, and it remains my number one priority. I have fought against every increase and have submitted legislation to decrease them, including: Personal Income Tax reductions, Corporate Tax reductions, Estate Tax Unification, and the Repatriation Tax Relief. Families learn to live within their means - Government should do the same.
Economy: Our region of the country is very competitive in attracting and retaining businesses. To remain competitive, Maryland needs to limit tax burdens and regulations on small businesses. A strong, skilled labor force is also essential. I have supported programs, such as EARN, that focus on training workers in specific industries in order to increase our ability to provide a variety of jobs to families.
Transportation: Transportation funds should be equitably distributed based on the revenues received by the motoring public as opposed to mass transit. 100% of gas tax dollars should go to road and infrastructure improvements. Those funds should NOT be used to pay for transit ridership. Counties and municipalities should see a return in Highway User Revenues so they can put funds back into their infrastructure.
Environment: The Chesapeake Bay and our natural resources are attributes that we need to protect. However, the aggressive way in which Maryland has made regulatory changes has hindered the ability of the farming community to make money on their family farms. Instead of implementing more programs, we need to take the time to analyze these programs that have already been implemented.

STEPHEN SLATER, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.slaterfor3B.com
Qualifications: I have devoted my life to public service, serving in the military, working on Capitol Hill, and representing the government in child abuse and neglect cases. As a practicing attorney in Frederick County for more than ten years, I have focused my practice on assisting those with disabilities and the less-advantaged. I also have experience with and knowledge of laws and the legislative process.
Priorities: In Annapolis, I will focus on ensuring our tax dollars are spent prudently and effectively, maintaining and improving our excellent education system, keeping and bringing back quality jobs to Frederick County, and improving our infrastructure while maintaining our agricultural heritage and protecting our natural resources.
Economy: I will work to attract quality employers to Maryland with tax and other incentives. I will work with our economic development infrastructure to encourage the creation and relocation of Maryland of businesses and entrepreneurs who want to take advantage of our highly educated and talented workforce and proximity to Washington, D.C. and transportation corridors.
Transportation: I think that our transportation infrastructure needs to keep pace with our growing population. I will encourage mass transit, such as increasing MARC train service at the Point of Rocks and Monocacy stations in my district. I will seek state assistance to improve aging transportation corridors such as Gallanger Creek Pike (MD 351), Jefferson Pike (MD 180), and Buckeystown Pike (MD 85).
Environment: Maryland is challenged by balancing the quality of our natural resources and agricultural heritage with increasing growth and suburbanization. I will work to protect the quality of our air, water, and other natural resources while ensuring the continuation of family farmers.

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

Vote for no more than three
**GENE STANTON, Democrat**

**Campaign website:** http://stantonfordelegate.org  
**Qualifications:** I am knowledgeable about the issues, which include education, transportation, and over development in Frederick and Carroll counties. I have lived and taught High School in Maryland for 14 years. I care about Maryland and I want to see our schools do better and I want the state to address issues that concern voters in Frederick and Carroll counties.  
**Priorities:** My number one issue is fighting to keep Maryland's education system the best in the nation. Transportation and expansion of I-270 and US 15 in Frederick County in order to reduce serious gridlock is another issue. I would fight to expand the Metro Red Line to Ft. Detrick. I will also fight to curtail runaway growth, hold the line on taxes and advocate for tax breaks for small businesses.  
**Economy:** I believe the state needs to cut taxes for small businesses and do everything it can to encourage the development of small business. We also need tax incentives to entice technology companies to move to Maryland and stay in Maryland. These incentives would need to be paid back if the company does not stay in Maryland at least for 25 years, making the jobs permanent.  
**Transportation:** Both I-270 and US 15 need to be widened from Clarksburg through Frederick. I support mass transit as the preferred means for transportation; it should be encouraged. Funding should come from as many sources as possible, from the state and the federal levels, as well as from private-public partnerships. We should not, however, embrace toll roads as a panacea for all transportation needs.  
**Environment:** Maryland faces a number of important issues, like the disappearance of our farming communities, over development, the continued loss of our green spaces, and polluted waterways, including the Chesapeake. Waste management is also an important issue including the threat of pollution from a waste incinerator proposed for Frederick County, not to mention the danger of the proposed Cove Point project.

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**DAVID E. VOGT III, Republican**

No response received

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**KARL BICKEL, Democrat**

**Campaign website:** http://www.FrederickCountySheriff.com  
**Qualifications:** Current two-term Sheriff, 24 years in law enforcement serving three Sheriffs. Executive leadership experience managing a full-service Sheriff's Office, with over 400 deputies, correctional officers, and support staff. Oversight of a annual budget exceeding $42 million. 2007 graduate of National Sheriffs Leadership Institute. Ability to effectively work with leaders of other government agencies.  
**Priorities:** Combat the Heroin crisis through effective enforcement, education, and awareness strategies. Hiring quality Deputy Sheriff recruits to fill current vacancies. Continue to prioritize school security, identify criminal gang activity, local homeland security planning, and effective information sharing with all agencies. Visibility of patrols and rapid response to calls. Remain accessible to citizens.

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**CHUCK JENKINS, Republican**

**Campaign website:** http://www.sheriffchuckjenkins.com  
**Qualifications:** MS Management Johns Hopkins Police Executive Leadership Johns Hopkins MS & BS Justice American University AAs Law Enforcement & Corrections Montgomery College National Sheriffs Institute 40 years of experience, Metropolitan Police Detective Wash DC, Asst Professor CJ, Chief of Law Enforcement FCSO, Law Enforcement Consultant, US Department of Justice providing training and TA to police nationwide.  
**Priorities:** Introduce transparency, expand and improve training and improve financial management. Restore community confidence, improve staff morale, make use of federal, state and private foundation funding streams to save local taxpayer dollars. Build community partnerships to address; crime, disorder and security issues in our community and around schools, while focusing on the growing heroin problem.
DUTIES: The attorney general represents the state of Maryland in all legal proceedings. The attorney general serves as legal counsel to the governor, the legislature, and all state departments, boards and most commissions.

QUALIFICATIONS: Trial attorney for 25 years. Involved in civil and criminal litigation during that time. Involved in criminal justice system for 25 years. Know the system better than my opponents. For the last 11 years, I have been deciding who should be paroled from prison. Most importantly, I have not been dependent on special interests to win elections, as have my opponents coming from the legislature.

priorities: Will use the influence of the office to end the drug war. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, at the same time we have the highest usage of marijuana and cocaine in the world. Urban areas are battlegrounds as drug gangs fight for turf. We must take the profit out of drugs through decriminalization. I will fight to restore our 2nd amendment rights. Gun ownership is a right.

Consumer Protection: Businesses that do not protect these accounts are open to civil litigation and in certain cases may be open to criminal proceedings as well.

Transparency: The citizens need to take the first step by voting for candidates who have been beholden to special interests for years. Our current corrupt system rewards those who favor politicians with campaign contributions in exchange for state contracts, jobs, etc. Only by electing those untainted by these contributors, can any real difference be made. Incremental politicians are the privileged class.

Drugs: All drugs should be decriminalized. We cannot even keep drugs out of prisons, how can we keep them out of a free society without losing our rights. Taking the profits of drugs away by decriminalization will eliminate the drug dealers who have a profit incentive to addict as many as possible. Too many lives are ruined from drug convictions. Job and educational opportunities are ruined forever.

Campaign website: http://Vote4Leo.org

Campaign website: http://www.brianch frosh.com

Qualifications: I chair the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. I have led many landmark laws through the Senate, including toughest in the nation gun safety law, laws protecting victims of domestic violence, laws protecting consumers from fraud and identity theft. I am the author of the Maryland Recycling Act and many other environmental initiatives. I have practiced law in Maryland for more than 35 years.

Priorities: I will stop the NRA from overturning or undermining the Firearm Safety Act. I will crack down on gun traffickers, protect Marylanders from identity theft, protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation and children from online predators, and I will make sure that every man, woman and child in our state has clean air to breathe and clean water to drink.

Consumer Protection: I sponsored the law that gives the Attorney General authority to prosecute identity theft. I will use it to protect Marylanders whose accounts have been hacked or credit card information misused. I will crack down on cheats, frauds and scams over the internet, telephone or in person.

Transparency: I sponsored the law that gives all citizens the right to sue to enforce the Open Meetings Act. As Attorney General, I will make sure that all state agencies abide by the law. I will encourage the agencies to reach beyond the letter of the law to ensure that proceedings and decisions are transparent and open and government officials are accountable.

Drugs: I support decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana. 30% of the prisoners in our state are incarcerated for drug offenses. It is vitally important to make drug treatment more widely available - inside our prisons and out. Likewise, it is important to make mental health care more accessible. Sufferers from mental illness cycle through our jails and prisons for lack of treatment.

Campaign website: http://Pritzker forAttorneyGeneral.com

Qualifications: Honors Grad - U of MD Law School; 40 years experience in all aspects of legal practice; extensive law office and business management experience; nominated by Judgeship by Judicial nominating commission; common sense approach as attorney for the people of the State of Maryland, not the politicians.

Priorities: Immediately investigate healthcare rollout debacle, including direction to Special Prosecutor to investigate contract procurement and related matters; bring action to recover $200 million of wasted tax payer monies; file suit to declare illegality of Federal EPA forcing rain tax on Maryland citizens; call for repeal of useless and detrimental regulations which are strangling Maryland businesses.

Consumer Protection: Hold credit card companies responsible for damage caused to Maryland citizens arising out of breach of privacy issues; expand consumer protection through mediation and arbitration within the Office of the Attorney General for dispute resolution, without time and expense of attorney participation.

Transparency: All decision making bodies, should and must be open to the public. Information belongs to the people of Maryland, not the politicians. Tax increases should be voted on solely in the year which they are to take effect - not in future years, so as to escape the wrath of the public. Place signs on gas pumps indicating amount of Maryland taxes.

Drugs: The recent marijuana decriminalization may have been somewhat premature. I would have waited one year to see the results of the actions taken by other states; a review of sentencing parameters are in order. Expungement should be possible for misdemeanor marijuana possession after a period of good behavior.
DUTIES: The comptroller is the general fiscal officer of the state, responsible for collecting, managing and planning for revenue to support the state budget. The comptroller collects and administers the following taxes: income tax (both personal and corporate), retail sales and use taxes, motor vehicle fuel tax, road tax on motor carriers, state tobacco tax, Maryland estate tax, and excise taxes on beer, wine and liquor. The comptroller serves on the Board of Public Works along with the governor and the state treasurer, who is appointed by the General Assembly.

Salary: $137,500.
Term: Four years, no term limit.
How elected: Elected statewide.

Questions
Qualifications: How do your qualifications and experience prepare you for the duties of this office?
Priorities: If elected, what are your priorities for this office?

Revenue System: What improvements would you recommend for Maryland's revenue system?
Response to changes: What policies would you implement to enable the state to adjust to unexpected reductions in revenue due to judicial decisions, recession, or other economic emergencies?

Board of Public Works: As the comptroller is a member of the Board of Public Works (with the governor and treasurer), what criteria would you use for evaluating capital projects that are subject to approval by that Board?

WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL, Republican

Campaign website: http://whcampbell2014.com
Qualifications: The Comptroller is Maryland’s Chief Financial Officer (CFO). I have over 15 years of successful experience as CFO for the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Amtrak. I have been responsible for budgets of $ 65 billion (B), and 225,000 employees. These are far greater than Maryland’s $39 B budget and 70,000 employees. I have also been Vice Chair of the NASA Audit Committee.
Priorities: Correcting the chronic audit problems in the Revenue Administration Division that collects our taxes. Saving and reforming our grossly underfunded Teachers and State employee pension, and retiree healthcare funds (currently underfunded by $41 B). Improving Maryland’s financial management, stewardship and transparency to ensure that our finances comply to the very highest professional standards.

Revenue system: I would reform the State’s Board of Revenue Estimates (BRE) to ensure that accurate and defensible financial projections are used to develop annual State budgets, rather than the inaccurate and unsupported estimates currently used. I would fix the chronic audit deficiencies that have plagued the Revenue Administration Division which collects our taxes since 2006. This is unacceptable performance.

Response to Changes: The Comptroller is the Chair of the Board of Revenue Estimates and has failed to provide adequate leadership to ensure that accurate revenue figures are provided for budget preparation. We have consistently enacted annual budgets with 3.4% spending increases, when 1.5% growth has been the norm. This deliberate structural budget deficit adversely affects our ability to respond to crises!

Board of Public Works: The Board of Public Works has consistently failed to perform basic leadership by failing to question the appropriateness of many projects, such as the Maryland State Center Project, replacement of the State Police helicopter fleet, over priced slot machines, and a loan to renovate a successful sports bar. Many projects, i.e. the State Healthcare exchange did not comply with procurement regulations.

PETER FRANCHOT, Democrat

Campaign website: http://www.franchot.com
Qualifications: As Comptroller, I have worked to make it far easier and more secure for Marylanders to file their taxes, and to ensure that most taxpayers receive their refunds within three business days. I have also worked to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share of taxes and, as a member of the Board of Public Works, I have strongly opposed the wasteful and inappropriate spending of taxpayer dollars.

Priorities: My office will continue to promote electronic tax filing, which saves millions in processing costs and enables us to issue tax refunds within three business days. We will also continue to take every possible step to safeguard taxpayer information. I will also work with our state leaders to enact real procurement reform, to ensure that taxpayers are getting the best possible value for their money.

Revenue system: My office has recaptured more than $3.6 billion in delinquent taxes during my time as Comptroller, and we will continue to use both technology and skilled professionals to collect money that rightfully belongs to the State. I have also been a leading advocate of the federal Marketplace Fairness Act, which would require all retailers who conduct business in Maryland to collect the state sales tax.

Response to changes: We cannot sustain our investments in vital priorities such as better schools and safe neighborhoods without a culture of fiscal responsibility. This is why I have fought against excessive spending and mounting levels of debt. The worst thing we can do is take more money out of the pockets of consumers, which is why I have consistently opposed new, higher tax increases amidst a weak economy.

Board of Public Works: I will continue to require true bid competition to ensure that we are getting the best deal possible for our money. I will demand that bid evaluations are conducted in a fair, predictable manner, and that all vendors are competing on a level playing field. I will hold agencies accountable for failures like single-bid and retroactive contracts, as well as expensive, short-term contract extensions.
Question 1
Constitutional Amendment
(Ch. 422 of the 2013 Legislative Session)
Transportation Trust Fund - Use of Funds
(Amending Article III by adding Section 53 to the Maryland Constitution)

Limits the use of Transportation Trust Funds to the payment of principal and interest on transportation bonds and for constructing and maintaining a adequate highway system or any other transport-related purpose. Also prohibits the transfer of Transportation Trust Funds into the General Fund or a special fund of the State, except for: (1) an allocation or use of highway user revenues for local governments or (2) a transfer of funds to the Maryland Transportation Authority or the Maryland Transportation Authority Fund. Transportation Trust Funds may be used for non-transportation related purposes or transferred to the general fund or a special fund only if the Governor declares a fiscal emergency and the General Assembly approves legislation, by a three-fifths vote of both houses, concurring with the use or transfer of the funds.

Origin of the Ballot Question: In 2013, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 829, which proposed a constitutional amendment that would place restrictions on the transfer of funds from the Transportation Trust Fund to other funds. In order to become law, it must be approved by a majority of voters statewide.

Present Practice: Current law requires the use of Transportation Trust Funds (TTF) for purposes related to transportation including state highways, motor vehicle administration, BWI Airport, Port of Baltimore and transit services. Revenues allocated to the TTF include motor fuel taxes, vehicle titling taxes, vehicle registration and a portion of rental car sales, corporate income taxes and federal aid. A percentage of the TTF revenues are distributed to local governments to develop and maintain local transportation projects. Revenue may not be transferred or diverted from this fund to the general fund or any other special fund unless legislation is enacted to authorize the diversion and the TTF is repaid within five years.

Often a governor will submit a budget that is not in line with previous legislation passed by the legislature so the governor will also submit a Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) that contains language that alters previous legislation, sometimes for a limited period of time, in order to enact a balanced budget. In recent years, a significant portion of the local share of highway user revenue has been diverted to the general fund to help balance the state's budget. This was done with the consent of the General Assembly through the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2009. Before this act was passed, the formula that allocated highway user revenues required 70 percent to go to the Maryland Department of Transportation and 30 percent to local jurisdictions. This 2009 BRFA and BRFAs passed in 2010 and 2011 reduced the local share of highway user funds and transferred a portion of those revenues to the general fund. In 2013 and 2014, there was no language in the BRFA to require the transfer of Transportation Trust Fund revenue to the general fund. A simple majority is all that is required to pass a BRFA.

Proposed change: This amendment to the Maryland Constitution would prohibit the transfer of funds from the Transportation Trust Fund to the general fund through simple legislation such as a BRFA. The only way that revenue from the Transportation Trust Fund could be used for general fund or special fund purposes would be if the governor declares a fiscal emergency and the transfer is approved by a three-fifths majority of both the Maryland Senate and House.

Pros: By making it harder to use Transportation Trust Fund revenue for anything other than transportation, it would be far less likely that these funds would be used for anything other than the purpose for which they were collected. Transportation infrastructure is important for safety and economic development.

Cons: A minority of members of the General Assembly could block the transfer of Transportation fund revenue to the general fund or other special funds, even if the governor declared a fiscal emergency. General fund revenues go towards programs such as education, health care, public safety and environmental protection.

A vote for the constitutional amendment means: It would be more difficult to use monies raised for transportation for anything else because it would require a declaration of a fiscal emergency and a three-fifths vote in each chamber of the General Assembly.

A vote against the constitutional amendment means: If the governor recommends a transfer of funds from the Transportation Trust Fund to the general fund or another special fund, it could be done by a majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly.

Question 2
Constitutional Amendment
(Ch. 261 of the 2014 Legislative Session)
Special Election to fill Vacancy in Office of Chief Executive Officer or County Executive
(Amending Article XI-A, Section 3 and Article XVII, Section 2 of the Maryland Constitution)

“Notice: For Question 2, Chapter 261 amends Article XVII, Section 2 of the Maryland Constitution rather than Article XVIII, Section 2.”

Authorizes charter counties to provide for special elections to fill a vacancy in the office of chief executive officer or county executive, and exempts a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of chief executive officer or county executive of a charter county from the constitutional requirement that elections for State and county officers be held on a specified four-year cycle. Under existing law, charter counties may only authorize special elections to fill vacancies on the county council.

Origin of the ballot question: The 2014 session of the General Assembly passed legislation proposing a constitutional amendment to: 1) permit, but not require, Baltimore City and counties that have adopted charter home rule to provide that a vacancy in the office of county executive would be filled by a special election; and 2) permit the holding of such a special election either on the first Monday in November in years that the governor is elected. Because the proposal would amend the constitution of Maryland, it must be submitted to the voters at this election for approval. The amendment would affect Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Talbot, and Wicomico counties and, after a new charter goes into effect on December 1, 2014, Frederick County.

Present practice: Although the Maryland Constitution permits charter counties to fill vacancies in county councils by special elections, there is no such provision for filling a vacancy in the office of county executive. Provisions for filling vacancies vary among the counties, with some providing that another official would succeed to the position in the event of a vacancy and others providing that the county council may choose a replacement.

A vote for the constitutional amendment means: The Maryland Constitution would be amended to permit charter counties to enact laws to require that a vacancy in the office of county executive would be filled by a special election.

A vote against the constitutional amendment means: The Maryland Constitution would not be amended and the current law would continue to apply, which would mean that special elections to fill county executive vacancies would not be permitted and such vacancies would be filled by county council appointment.
Governor of Maryland

Vote for one

Anthony G. Brown and Ken Ulman, Democrats

Campaign website: http://anthonybrown.com/

Qualifications: I’ve dedicated my life to public service, including 30 years in the US Army; 8 years in the General Assembly, and now as Lt. Governor. The son of immigrants, I’ve learned that wherever people live, they want the same things for their families: opportunities made possible by great schools, safe communities, a clean environment. Working together, we’ll build a better Maryland for more Marylanders.

Priorities: Our top priority is to create jobs and opportunities for more Marylanders. We will advance this goal through strong investments in public education and infrastructure; and by creating the most competitive business climate in the nation right here in Maryland. We will also build upon our successes by striving to end domestic violence and finding more permanent homes for children in foster care.

Environment: Our toughest environmental challenges are restoring the Chesapeake Bay, improving air quality, ensuring sustainable growth, addressing climate change and pursuing environmental justice. In order to meet these challenges, we will support best practices for stormwater remediation, increase our renewable energy mix; support transit-oriented development; and fund grants to eliminate food deserts.

Transportation: Investing in transportation infrastructure is critical to Maryland’s growth, including its roads, rail lines, bridges, airports and the Port of Baltimore. Our economy will be enhanced by projects in the most pressing environmental issue in Maryland. Lockbox on environment trust funds; force PA and NY to pay their fair share of Susquehanna pollution. Increase Brownfield Credit to restore blighted industrial land.

Education: Reforming education to provide better and more resources to students; make our schools more accessible to all.

Larry Hogan and Boyd Rutherford, Republicans

Campaign website: http://www.HoganforGovernor.com

Qualifications: Lifelong Marylander. Spent 25 years running small business that brought hundreds of employers and thousands of jobs to Maryland. In ’07, served as Appointments Secretary in Ehrlich Admin; credited with making that admin the most bipartisan and diverse in state history. 3 years ago, started MD’s largest non-partisan grassroots group focused on fiscal restraint and common sense government reform.

Priorities: Create jobs, grow our economy and bring common sense governing to Annapolis. Unless we grow our economy there’ll be no funds for the things we all agree on - improve education, protect the environment, safeguard pensions, fight crime. Creating stable well-paying jobs for parents strengthens families, improves children’s school performance, lowers domestic violence, reduces crime and drug abuse.

Environment: Restoring the protecting the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers and streams that feed it is the most pressing environmental issue in Maryland. Lockbox on environment trust funds; force PA and NY to pay their fair share of Susquehanna pollution. Increase Brownfield Credit to restore blighted industrial land.

Transportation: Lockbox on the Highway Transportation Trust Fund to use funds only for roads and transportation.

Education: Common Core needs to be reworked to focus on parent, classroom teacher and local control.

Shawn Quinn and Lorenzo Gatzanaga, Libertarians

Campaign website: http://www.citizen4quinn.org

Qualifications: 20 years’ service in the Navy, 7 years of health and safety experience with the American Red Cross, 5 years’ law enforcement with the City of Newport News and 5 years’ experience as a hazardous material truck driver. Ran as a Libertarian for a seat in the House of Delegates in 2010. Donates time and money to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, Red Cross, and walks for cancer research.

Priorities: Reduce, then eliminate Maryland’s income tax within the first 2 years in office. Reduce the state sales tax (which hurts the poor the most) to 3%. Transfer back to the private sector functions which have been improperly assumed by the state and allow the market to provide them better and more efficiently. Propose, work to advance, and sign into law a Constitutional Amendment to end the prohibition on marijuana.

Environment: Conowingo Dam needs to be dredged right now. Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for their irresponsibility through civil liability. Promote free market environmentalism to promote conservation and environmental protection.

Transportation: End the bipartisan practice of raiding the Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation projects. Eliminate all subsidies to developers-make them pay for their roads and other infrastructure. This, combined with local control of zoning decisions will encourage optimal city size and organization with more walking and biking possibilities.

Education: I’m in favor of parental choice and variety in education, not one-size-fits-all cookie cutter approaches. Day care for children under five-including pre-K if parents choose that option—could be made more accessible to all.