

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag. It features a blue field with white stars in the upper left and lower right, and red and white stripes in the lower right. The flag is oriented diagonally, with the top-left corner of the page being the top-left corner of the flag's field.

2026

FREDERICK COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTION VOTERS GUIDE

- ✓ Primary Election Day — June 23, 2026
- ✓ Early Voting — June 11-18, 2026

Published by **The Frederick News-Post**

YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN, **April McClain Delaney,** Is Fighting Trump and Delivering for Western Maryland

Raised in a farming family, April McClain Delaney learned early that hard work and showing up matter. Today, she's bringing that same fight to Congress—standing up for Maryland and taking on Donald Trump. She's confronting his attacks on federal workers, his reckless decisions that put American troops at risk, and his disastrous cuts to our healthcare.

**Thank You
Western
MD PAC for
Organizing
This Year's
Summit.**

- ✓ **LEADING THE FIGHT TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED ICE FACILITY IN WESTERN MARYLAND**
- ✓ **Fighting Rising Costs With Her "Costs Down, Opportunity Up" Agenda**
- ✓ **Delivered Billions for NIH, NSF, and NIST**
- ✓ **Reinstated Training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg**
- ✓ **Defended Federal Employees from Donald Trump's Attacks**
- ✓ **Secured Millions for the Frederick Youth Center Project, the Maryvale Ditch Flood Mitigation Project at West Patrick Street, Taney Avenue Senior Center, and Senior Affordable Housing**



Re-Elect Congresswoman
**April McClain
Delaney**
DEMOCRAT for CONGRESS MD-6
FIGHTING FOR YOU!

Paid for by April
McClain Delaney
for Congress

Re-Elect Your Congresswoman
April McClain Delaney

VOTE EARLY: June 11—June 18 • ELECTION DAY: June 23

ELECTION INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2026 Frederick County primary election voters guide. Maryland's 2026 primary will be held June 23 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Early voting runs June 11 to 18, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, including Saturday and Sunday.

In Frederick County, residents will vote on:

- County executive, County Council at large and by districts, state's attorney, clerk of the circuit court, register of wills, judge of the orphans' court, sheriff
- Frederick County Board of Education
- Governor / lieutenant governor, comptroller, attorney general, state senator by district, state delegates by district, judge of the circuit court
- 6th District representative in Congress
- Democratic Central Committee, Republican Central Committee

Races in which candidates run as a member of a political party are open only to those parties — i.e., enrolled Republicans vote in the Republican primary; enrolled Democrats vote in the Democratic primary. All registered voters, including those who are unaffiliated, are eligible to vote in the Board of Education race, which is nonpartisan.

Governance

■ Frederick County has a county executive and a seven-member County Council. There are two at-large seats on the council, who represent all residents. The remaining five council members are elected by districts.

■ Frederick County Board of Education members are elected at-large. Four of the seven seats on the board are up for election this year.

■ The entire Maryland General Assembly is up for election this year — all delegates and senators. Maryland is divided into 47 legislative districts for the Maryland General Assembly. Each district has one senator and three delegates.

Some districts are divided further. For example, District 2 has both District 2A, with two delegates who represent Frederick and Washington counties, and District 2B, which has one delegate who represents Washington County.

■ Maryland is divided into eight congressional districts. Frederick County is entirely within the 6th District.

Maps of the voting precincts, County Council districts, state legislative districts and the 6th Congressional District can be found at frederickcountymd.gov/1670/Election-Maps.

Registration

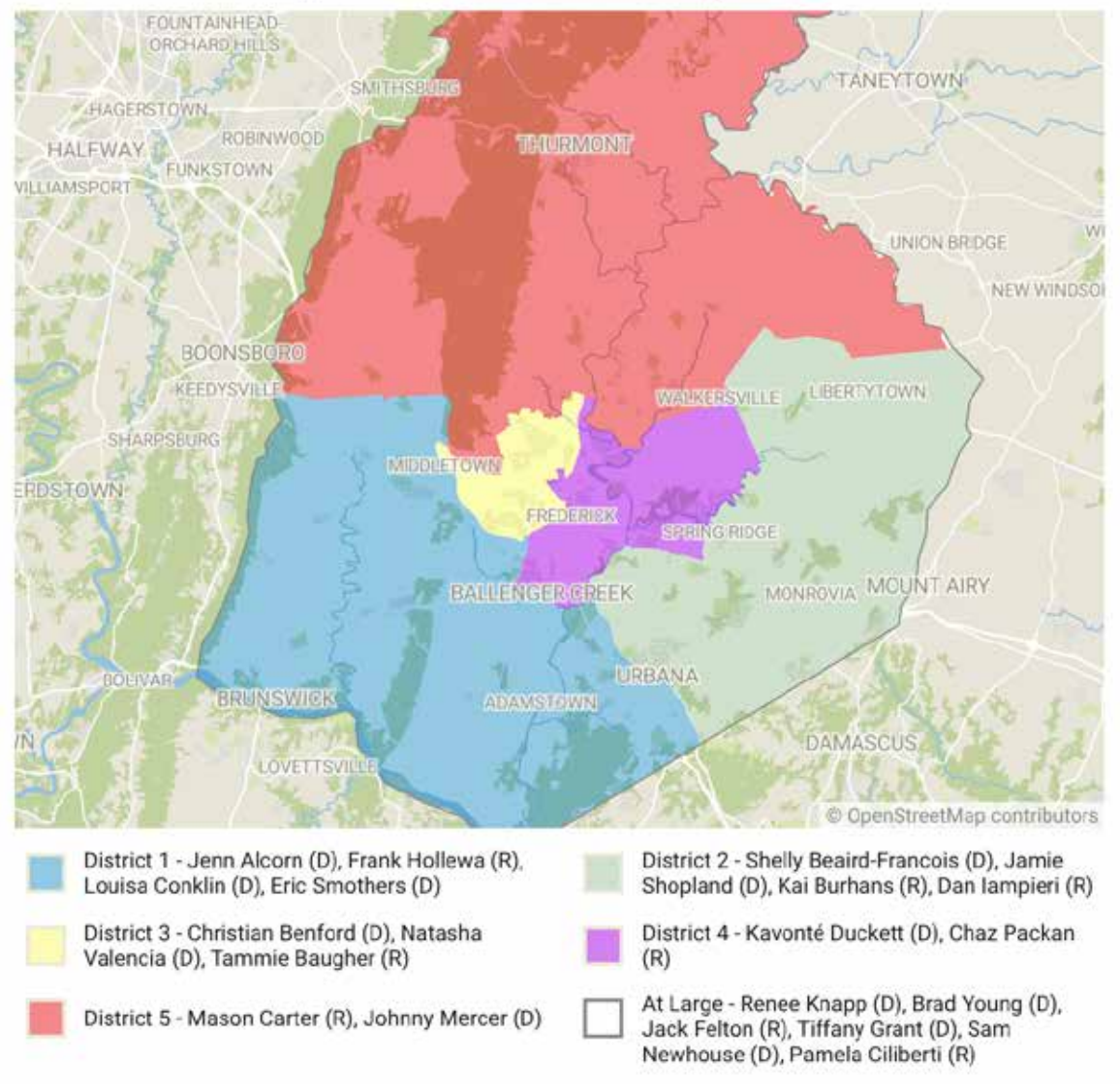
People may register to vote in Frederick County if they are:

- At least 16 years old (but they must be 18 to vote in an election)
- A U.S. citizen
- Live in Frederick County
- Are not disqualified as outlined by Maryland state law

Information about registering to vote is posted at frederickcountymd.gov/1648/Voter-Registration---RegisterMake-Change.

The deadline to register in advance, update a registration or change a party enrollment is 21 days before an election. People also may register or update

Frederick County Council candidates by district



Map by Cameron Adams

their information during the early-voting period or on the day of the election.

More information

The Frederick County Board of Elections can answer questions about the election or voting.

Call 301-600-VOTE (8683) or go to its office at 8490 Progress Drive, suite 300, Frederick.

It is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Candidate responses

The Frederick News-Post invited candidates in almost all contested races for county, state and federal elected offices to be part of this year's primary election guide.

The exceptions were judge of the orphans' court and the Democratic and Republican central committees.

The candidates for judge of the orphans' court and the unopposed candidates for other elected public offices will be invited to participate in the News-Post's voters guide for the general election.

For this guide, we sent questionnaires to 67 candidates on the primary ballot.

One said he has since withdrawn from the race (Daniel M. Krakower, for U.S. representative in the 6th District).

One candidate did not respond to several emails and had no phone number listed (L.D. Burkindine, for governor).

The other 65 entries in this guide are based on the candidates' full or partial responses.

Because of the number of candidates and the amount of information each provided, an excerpt of their responses is included in this guide. Their full responses will be posted in the online version of this guide at fredericknewspost.com.

VOTING OPTIONS

Voters have multiple ways to cast a ballot:

In person

In-person voting for the June 23 primary will be done at polling places across the county. Voters are assigned to a specific polling place based on where they live. They will be open for voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Early voting

Early voting also is done in person, June 11 to 18. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, including Saturday and Sunday.

There are five early-voting polling places in Frederick County:

- Trinity Recreation Center, 6040 New Design Road, Frederick
- Urbana Regional Library, 9020 Amelung St.
- Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser St.
- Middletown Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building, 1 Fireman's Lane
- Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building, 12027 South St.

Any registered voter in Frederick County may use any of the early-voting sites during the early voting period, regardless of where they live.

Mail-in ballots

Any registered voter may vote by mail-in ballot, without having to give a reason.

Mail-in ballots can be requested online (with a Maryland driver's license or MVA-issued ID card); by returning a form; or by visiting the Frederick County Board of Elections office at 8490 Progress Drive, suite 300, Frederick.

For more information, go to frederickcountymd.gov/8687/Mail-in-Voting.

A mail-in ballot can be returned through the mail, hand-delivered to the Board of Elections office or at a ballot drop box. It must be postmarked on or before the day of the election.

There are 12 ballot drop boxes in Frederick County:

- Frederick County Board of Elections (parking lot), 8490 Progress Drive, Frederick
- Brunswick Middle School (near the main entrance), 301 Cummings Drive
- Thurmont Regional Library (near the main entrance), 76 E. Moser Road
- Trinity Recreation Center, 6040 New Design Road, Frederick
- Middletown Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building (near the banquet room entrance), 1 Fireman's Lane
- Oakdale High School (near the main entrance), 5850 Eaglehead Drive, Ijamsville
- Urbana Regional Library (nearly the lower-level entrance in the rear), 9020 Amelung St.
- William R. Talley Recreation Center (near the entrance facing Baker Park), 121 N. Bentz St., Frederick
- Waverley Elementary School (to the left of the main entrance), 201 Waverley Drive, Frederick
- Crestwood Middle School (near the main entrance), 7100 Foxcroft Drive, Frederick
- Libertytown Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building, 12027 South St.
- Wolfsville Elementary School, 12520 Wolfsville Road



Staff photo by Ric Dugan

Jon Butler, right, mounts a security camera to a pole above a ballot drop box as his son Eli Butler assists outside the William R. Talley Recreation Center near Baker Park in Frederick on May 6. The two work for Wizer Technology of Frederick. All ballot boxes in the county will have the solar-powered security cameras.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Diane Fouché

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Thurmont

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Former director of the Office of Procurement and Contracting for Frederick County for 13 years. Prior to that, four years in Howard County procurement and nine years at Montgomery County Public Schools.

Political experience: No elected political experience.

1 - Why are you running for county executive?

Frederick County needs transparency and leadership. We need a leader who listens to people and makes decisions that serve the best interest of the county, not special interests, developers, or the governor. We need to have open, honest conversations in public; no more backroom deals. In 25 years of government, I've never witnessed the failures that we are currently seeing in our government and that's when I decided to get involved.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I served citizens for 25 years behind the scenes of government, ensuring fiscal responsibility and equal opportunity in contracting. Throughout my career, I remained apolitical and served elected officials, regardless of party affiliation. I've negotiated multimillion-dollar contracts, settled disputes, and achieved successful outcomes in every situation from construction to social programs. I know how government works, I see its failures, and I know how to make our government work for our citizens.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I don't support growth of data centers. We don't have infrastructure in place to accommodate the existing, let alone allow more to be built. They should have been required to provide their own cooling measures and electricity in a way that does not negatively impact residents. Ultimately, the current CDI is too large and doesn't serve our citizens. I support the referendum. It's the voice of citizens that our government refused to hear.



William J. (Jeff) Holtzinger

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Braddock

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Civil/ structural engineer and attorney, sole practitioner/self employed

Political experience: Mayor, city of Frederick, 2006-2010. Unsuccessful run for mayor in 2013

1 - Why are you running for county executive?

As a lifelong county resident, I don't like the direction county government has gone in the last 12 years. The size of county government has grown substantially. Real property taxes are increased every year without any corresponding benefit to residents. Growth has also not been well managed and now strains our public infrastructure. I bring the experience that will allow me to better manage growth and streamline county government without reducing services.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have over 30 years of experience as a civil engineer and attorney. The majority of my experience has involved working with local government issues. While most of my experience has been in the private sector, I have been the Frederick city engineer, Brunswick city engineer and a part-time water and sewer engineer for Frederick County. I also was mayor of Frederick. In those roles, I tackled a number of pressing public infrastructure issues.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I am not against data centers per se. However, the centers may not be the revenue-generating panacea anticipated by county government. Moreover, the county should have understood all the impacts of the centers, including water supply demand and electric demand, and the impact on county residents before any decisions to proceed. Same applies to the overlay. Making deals then asking questions is not a sound public process. Public referendum should be allowed to proceed.

COUNTY COUNCIL (DISTRICT 1, DEMOCRAT)



Jenn Alcorn

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Middletown

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Student pursuing degree in psychology at FCC
Political experience: First time running for office

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

Frederick County has given me so much: my education, my community, my family. After I lost my husband, Lt. Stew Alcorn, to occupational heart disease in 2021, I found a renewed desire to serve. I'm running because I believe county government should be practical, compassionate, and focused on getting real results, not on party politics. I want to help keep Frederick County a wonderful place for working families, seniors, farmers, and future generations.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

More than 20 years in hospitality and human resources taught me to listen, problem-solve, and lead through complexity. As a Leadership Frederick County graduate and longtime volunteer with the Chamber, Mental Health Association, Blessings in a Backpack, and FCPS programs, I understand our community's needs from the ground up. Advocating for survivor families of fallen first responders at the local, state, and federal levels sharpened my ability to navigate government on behalf of others.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I support data centers only in appropriately zoned industrial areas with strict environmental and infrastructure standards — they can expand our commercial tax base and reduce pressure on homeowners. I support the CDI overlay boundaries. The overlay doesn't authorize construction; each project must still go through a rigorous public approval process where community voices are heard and evaluated. The question of a referendum is currently being litigated. Ensuring residents have a primary voice remains my priority.

COUNTY COUNCIL (DISTRICT 1, DEMOCRAT)



Louisa Conklin

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Brunswick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Senior director, partnering, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (since 2023, although I was promoted to senior director earlier this year); previously worked at NPR for four years and held roles as an executive assistant and project manager and a change management analyst

Political experience: none

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I decided to run for County Council because it became clear to me that a handful of developers are driving the growth and development strategy of our community. I believe the role of local government is to stand up for resident needs and put a check on big monied interests, like developers and big corporations. My top campaign priorities are to fully fund our schools and make our lives more affordable, especially housing.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have 20+ years of work experience in non-profits and private companies. Before running, I was on the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee. I'm a practicing Quaker. In my work and community, I do not shy away from speaking up when I think it's the right thing to do. Our county needs elected representatives on the council who will speak up, advocate and fearlessly dissent on behalf of residents when it's called for.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I do not support the growth of data centers in Frederick County. I do not support the current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone. I believe the County Council was wrong to support the expansion of the CDI site recommended by the Planning Commission. I support the ballot referendum, which would allow voters to have a say on the issue, and helped gather signatures. I expect an overwhelming vote against data center expansion in November.



Eric Smothers

Political Party: Democrat

Which city/town/neighborhood you live in: Brunswick

Current occupation and employers (may list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired list your last job and employer.

Retired from Maryland State Police, trooper/flight paramedic, Frederick County Sheriff's Office

Political experience: Current Brunswick City Councilmember, elected 2023

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

My experiences from previous jobs and my current position give me insight in how county government should work. As a Brunswick councilman, I understand the housing and growth issues, water, and sewer issues and controlling our growth. I understand the need to attract small and large businesses. Helping our senior population with resources as they age in place. Continue to fund schools and upgrade older facilities in a more timely fashion.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I've been a member and officer of our Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association for years, past president of the Maryland State Fire Fighters Association, past president of our Regional Emergency Services Council for Frederick/Washington Counties, past chairman for our State Emergency Services Council, previous member of our State Emergency Services Board, and member of our State Fire Commission Board. President and assistant chief of the Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Company.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? No The current Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Yes Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

No. I don't believe in expanding data centers outside the current zones or the overlay. The infrastructure is already laid out in the current area. It's within a heavily used industrial area that already had the infrastructure in place. The referendum should have taken place long before building the data centers started. I think the current referendum was hastily put together.

COUNTY COUNCIL (DISTRICT 2, DEMOCRAT)



Shelly Beard-Francois

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Urbana

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Marketing product manager, Aircrafts Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)

Senior project manager, Union Privilege Union Associate product manager, National Education Association Member Benefits (NEAMB)

Political experience: none

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I'm running for Frederick County Council, District 2, to ensure working families have a real voice in local government. I want to expand access to good-paying jobs, protect our environment, invest in public schools, and promote responsible growth that doesn't strain infrastructure. Our community deserves transparent leadership that prioritizes fairness, opportunity, and long-term sustainability for all residents.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Across every job and position I've held in the public and private sectors and my political experience, one theme has remained constant: serving people. Constituent and community relations have been at the core of my work, and now I'm committed to bringing that same energy, dedication, and responsiveness to Frederick County and the County Council.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I do not support unchecked growth of data centers in Frederick County. The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay (CDI) Zone needs stronger safeguards to address energy demand, environmental impacts, and community concerns. I support revisiting and revising the CDI framework with stricter standards and transparency. If those changes are not implemented, I would support giving residents a voice through a referendum to reconsider or overturn the CDI zone.

COUNTY COUNCIL (DISTRICT 2, DEMOCRAT)



Jamie Shopland

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Urbana Highlands

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: I work in the Digital Technology Department at Amtrak. Previously, I worked for the Howard County Council and the Indiana Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Division.

Political experience: Frederick County Commission for Women Appointee (prior); Maryland Longitudinal Data System Governing Board Appointee (current); Frederick County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee Chair (current)

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

Frederick County is at a crossroads. Families are feeling the strain of rising housing costs, crowded schools, traffic, and growth that often outpaces infrastructure. In District 2, we see both Frederick's opportunity and its growing pains. I'm running to bring thoughtful leadership that plans ahead preserving farmland, investing in education and transit, expanding housing options, and ensuring growth decisions are made with residents instead of happening to them.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My work in digital technology at Amtrak strengthened my ability to manage complex systems that converge physical and digital infrastructure, improve efficiency, and plan for long-range infrastructure needs. My previous work in government focused on constituent services and protecting consumers. As chair of Frederick County's Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, I've worked directly with parents and school leaders to solve difficult challenges collaboratively.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I support targeted data center development in appropriate locations, but I oppose expanding into Priority Preservation Areas or productive agricultural land. The Planning Commission's recommendation strikes a more balanced approach that I support. I'm also proud to have earned the Sierra Club endorsement, reflecting shared priorities around environmental stewardship, and using our resources wisely. We should not make irreversible decisions based on speculative tech demand projections.

COUNTY COUNCIL (DISTRICT 2, REPUBLICAN)



Kai Burhans

Political party: Republican

Where you live: New Market

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

NaturaLawn of America

Political experience: I have never held elected office before.

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

For 12 years, this county has been on the decline. Spending has increased and outpaced our growth, while our infrastructure around us has been left behind. I'm running to get our budgeting under control and promote sustainable growth so we can put people, property, and prosperity first.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I grew up in local politics being involved my whole life from going to functions to attending meetings. I believe more than anything that becoming a homeowner and true taxpayer to the county has prepared me for this role. As I live the life of the everyday resident in this county.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

The CDI overlay overall has a lot of good intentions to keep us from becoming Loudoun County north. However, the process overall felt rushed and not enough public input was heard. I would look to establish more regulations towards the CDI overlay, like air quality monitors and supporting legislation requiring small modular reactors (SMRs). I do support the people's right to referendum for issues they feel have not met their standards.



Dan Lampieri

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Mount Airy

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Real estate broker/owner (REMAX Aspire)

Political experience: None

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I'm running to protect the community we love and ensure that its future is planned responsibly. My priorities are to help neighbors fight the MPRP, slow data center sprawl, advocate for smart budget decisions, support our schools and ensure our future is responsible and well-planned. I will listen and be a fierce advocate for our local community and the county we all call home. This campaign is about protecting what matters and planning what's next.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I'm the owner of a small local business and will bring over two decades of leadership, business, and financial background to the County Council. My life of service didn't begin with this campaign. I've been a volunteer chaplain, Little League coach, and school volunteer. Professionally, I've served as president of my trade association, led legislative committees, and fought to protect homeowners rights. I've also been a legal intervenor in the MPRP case.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I would have voted against the CDI overlay. Data centers should be as far away as possible from residential neighborhoods and they should never be placed on preserved land. I signed the referendum to put the CDI overlay on the ballot in 2026. Let the people decide. There's an organized effort to take this decision out of voters' hands. I'm in favor of reconfiguring the CDI overlay into something resembling the Planning Commission recommendation.

COUNTY COUNCIL (DISTRICT 3, DEMOCRAT)



Christian Benford

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Frederick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Special assistant to the secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Services

Political experience: N/A

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I believe the working people of Frederick County need an ally on the County Council. While we have been able to attract businesses and private interests to strengthen our economic development, the people who uphold those industries have been left behind. Our residents are living on the edge financially or being forced out of the county completely. I am running to deliver for working people and make Frederick County more affordable.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have worked as a public servant in local government and most recently served as a legislative intern for Delegate Ken Kerr, supporting policy research and constituent services. I have also been active in community advocacy, organizing around issues like housing, labor rights, and immigrant protections, which has given me direct insight into the challenges Frederick residents face.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I do not support further expansion of data centers in Frederick County. The Dec. 23 vote grossly added more land to the overlay zone, despite residents and subject-matter experts voicing their concerns around effects to agricultural land, natural resource utilization, and utility hikes. I proudly voiced my opposition to the expansion and supported the referendum. I do not believe major land use decisions should be made on the premise of potential revenue.



Natasha Valencia

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Frederick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Co-Founder of Artspiration Frederick; business consultant; Former bakery owner: 4 the Love of Sweets

Political experience: First time running

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I'm running to ensure every voice in District 3 is heard and represented. I want to advocate for strong schools, address the affordability crisis with thoughtful housing solutions, uplift small businesses and nonprofits, and promote smart, sustainable growth. My focus is on creating opportunities so families across Frederick County can thrive, succeed, and feel confident in the future of our community.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As a mom of four in Frederick County Public Schools and a Frederick High graduate, I'm committed to supporting our teachers and creating opportunities for every student to succeed. I served on the city's Planning and Education Commissions, giving me insight into growth, policy, and community needs. As a former small business owner in the Golden Mile area and co-founder of a nonprofit, I bring experience in supporting entrepreneurs and building strong community partnerships.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

Data centers present both opportunity and responsibility. They can expand our tax base to support schools and help keep property taxes stable, but must be carefully managed. I support thoughtful planning that guides this type of growth to appropriate areas. Strong environmental, water, and energy protections are essential. I also respect the referendum process as an important part of community input and local democracy.

COUNTY COUNCIL (AT LARGE, DEMOCRAT)



Tiffany Grant

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: District 3

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Financial Risk-Management; CitiMortgage Inc.

Political experience: none

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I am running to ensure Frederick County's future is built on "Smart Growth" and "Dignity by Design." My goal is to bring transparency and professional financial oversight to the council. I want to advocate for a community-centered government where infrastructure and school capacity are addressed before approving large-scale developments, ensuring that our progress never comes at the expense of our residents' quality of life or our county's unique character.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My background in finance, focusing on long-term planning and risk-mitigation, provides the exact oversight needed for a multi-million-dollar county budget. Additionally, my Master's in Forensic Psychology helps me navigate complex community negotiations with empathy. Serving as a chief judge for Maryland elections has reinforced my commitment to public trust and administrative integrity. I understand how to balance fiscal responsibility with the human needs of our diverse and growing population.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I have significant concerns regarding data center expansion on protected agricultural land. Growth must not jeopardize our environmental stewardship. While I recognize the economic potential, the current CDI overlay zone lacks sufficient independent study on long-term resource impact. I support a referendum on the CDI overlay zone to allow residents a direct voice. Transparency is essential; we should not bypass public consensus for industrial development that permanently alters our landscape and resources.

Your COMMON SENSE Board of Education Candidates

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE . PARENTAL RIGHTS . SAFETY AND SECURITY . SCHOOL CHOICE . TEACHER RETENTION & SUPPORT



It's time for
BALANCE
Vote for the Common Sense Slate



Geoff Seidel

FCPS has a one BILLION dollar budget. The BOE wants even more, raising YOUR taxes to pay for it.

Geoff teaches on the college level and is completing his doctorate in Organizational Leadership. He wants fiscal responsibility and transparency, with **students, teachers and taxpayers winning** - not the union.

It's time for
SAFETY
Vote for the Common Sense Slate



Tyler Walker

Student & teacher safety has been compromised with classroom chaos, bus bullies, boys in girls sports, and even far more serious events.

National Guard Captain, coach, and former MD & VA teacher, Tyler wants classroom cameras, on-site security, and the elimination of violence and disrespect for all students & teachers.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMON SENSE SLATE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
TIM SIGMON, TREASURER

It's time for
LEARNING
Vote for the Common Sense Slate



Shelley Potter

The BOE boasts that Frederick County is 3rd in the state. But only 30% pass Algebra 1 and 54% can't read. It that anything to be proud of?

Teacher, curriculum creator, and student advocate, Shelley's back-to-basics focus is on academic excellence, early learning intervention, less screen time and more textbooks.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

RE-ELECT
RENEE
KNAPP

County Council At-Large

Keeping Frederick County
Moving Forward



By Authority Friends of Renee Knapp, Christopher Knapp, Treasurer

COUNTY COUNCIL (AT LARGE, DEMOCRAT)



Renee Knapp

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Adamstown

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Frederick County Council member,

Political experience: Frederick County Council at-large member since 2022

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I'm running for re-election to the Frederick County Council to keep Frederick County moving forward and to build on the progress I have made on issues such as education, public transportation, and childcare access. As a legislator, success depends on working well with others, and I have brought individuals and groups together to address challenges. I want to work on affordability, job creation, and housing in a second term.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I am a current council member, a lifelong resident of Frederick County, and I hold a BA degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Saint Mary's University. As the mother of a child with special needs, I have brought a unique perspective to the County Council. With every decision, I always evaluate how I can do the most good for the most people in Frederick County, especially for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I have worked to establish a robust regulatory framework for data center development in Frederick County to tightly control growth that other jurisdictions are modeling, which includes high standards for operations and location. The CDI-OZ established a clear perimeter to restrict and contain the data center sprawl we have seen in Northern Virginia. Those who disagreed with the CDI overlay boundary have the right to pursue every option in opposition to that decision.



Sam Newhouse

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: New Market

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Videographer/editor for Penn State; Furniture mover/driver for Morris Habitat for Humanity Re-Store

Political experience: None

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I am running for County Council to represent the residents of Frederick County who demand smarter growth, proper planning, environmental justice and a transparent government. Our county deserves representatives that are going to live through our climate emergency, and will plan accordingly. We need council members who value environmental justice and ecological sustainability. Frederick County deserves transit and properly funded schools, and walkable communities. Frederick County deserves representation that prioritizes residents and people over corporations.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I volunteered with the Frederick County Data Center Referendum Committee to coordinate volunteers, teach signature collection training, and collect signatures. The referendum on the Critical Digital Overlay Zone succeeded and will be on the ballot in the general election. I served a six-year reserve contract with the U.S. Marine Corps, and demonstrated diligence and attention to detail. I worked at Morris Habitat for Humanity, and learned how affordable housing changes lives.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I do not support the growth of data centers in Frederick County. I volunteered every single day with the Frederick County Data Center Referendum Committee to gather signatures to force a vote on the CDI overlay zone by the residents of Frederick County. I'm excited to vote against data centers in Frederick County.



Brad Young

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Walkersville

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

President and CEO of Maryland Financial Planners; adjunct professor at Mount St. Mary's University

Political experience: Elected to Frederick County Board of Education: 2010, 2014, 2018. Elected to Frederick County Council: 2022

1 - Why are you running for County Council?

I'm running for County Council because I believe Frederick County deserves steady, thoughtful leadership that puts people first. Our community is growing, and we need to manage growth responsibly while protecting what makes Frederick special. I want to strengthen our schools, support seniors, and make life more affordable for working families. I've always been accessible and committed to listening. I'm running to continue serving our community with honesty, experience, and a focus on real solutions.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I bring decades of experience in public service, education, and business to the Frederick County Council. I currently serve as council president and have been an at-large council member since 2022. Before that, I spent 12 years on the Board of Education and 15 years on the Frederick Community College Board of Trustees. As a financial professional, small business owner, and educator, I have the experience to make informed, responsible decisions for our community.

3 - Do you support: The growth of data centers in Frederick County? The current Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone? Holding a referendum on whether to overturn the CDI zone?

I support data centers when carefully planned and controlled because they can significantly strengthen our tax base without overburdening infrastructure. By bringing in new commercial revenue, data centers help shift the tax burden off residential property owners. That additional funding allows us to better invest in our priorities: education, senior services, and first responders while maintaining a high quality of life. The key is smart siting, strong regulations, and ensuring these projects benefit our community.

SHERIFF (DEMOCRAT)



Karl Bickel

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Monrovia

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Senior policy analyst (retired), U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office; Chief of operations, Frederick County Sheriff's Office; Detective, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, DC

Political experience: Candidate for sheriff, 2014, 2018, 2022

1 - Why are you running for sheriff?

To provide experienced professional leadership that will improve morale by respecting the value of personnel, including them in decision making in office administration, setting the future direction of the office — while ensuring fairness in all aspects of decision making. To improve community trust through transparency, accountability, collaborative problem solving, and instituting procedural justice both internally and externally.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Chief and second in command of Frederick County Sheriff's Office; patrol officer and detective, Metropolitan Police, Washington, D.C.; senior policy analyst, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Policing (retired); assistant professor, Allegany College; county executive's Public Safety Transition Team; county ex Ethics Task Force; Human Relations Commission; Substance Abuse Advisory Council; Master's degree, management and police executive leadership certificate, Johns Hopkins U.; Master's & Bachelor's, Justice, American University; graduate of National Sheriffs' Institute

3 - Do you support the 287(g) program that had allowed the jail staff to screen inmates for legal status and assist in deporting them? With a new Maryland law banning local law enforcement agencies from participating in the 287(g) program, can and should the sheriff's office still work with ICE?

No! The 287(g) program has been banned in Maryland. I'd follow the guidance of Maryland's attorney general, by only honoring criminal warrants signed by a judicial officer and not honor administrative warrants signed by a bureaucrat. Cooperation with ICE would mirror that of cooperation with other federal agencies like the FBI, ATF, U.S. Marshals, DEA, IRS, Postal Inspectors, etc. Sheriff's deputies would not act as ICE agents or perform the duties of ICE agents.



Jason Cabel Ciemielewski

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: city of Frederick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Currently a graduate student, Master of Science in Bioinformatics, Hood College (Expected graduation: May 2026); Associate immunologist, CEL-SCI (10 years)

Political experience:

I have not previously held political office or ran for political office.

1 - Why are you running for sheriff?

I am running to restore integrity and accountability to the sheriff position. I will ensure our residents are protected from law enforcement agencies that act unreasonably or illegally, and end all unnecessary collaboration with ICE. As sheriff, I will build community trust through transparency and accountability, improve submission of sexual assault evidence kits for testing, and fight for the fair compensation our deputies deserve.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My background in science is built on the pursuit of truth through objective evidence. I am experienced in solving complex problems that require multidisciplinary coordination and the integration of best practices and expert opinions, along with front-line feedback. Just as transparency is vital in science, it is essential for public safety. I will bring that same rigor to the sheriff position to build accountability and community trust.

3 - Do you support the 287(g) program that had allowed the jail staff to screen inmates for legal status and assist in deporting them? With a new Maryland law banning local law enforcement agencies from participating in the 287(g) program, can and should the sheriff's office still work with ICE?

I vehemently oppose the 287(g) program. As sheriff, I will require judicial warrants for all ICE coordination. The Sheriff's Office will protect residents from abuses by other agencies that act unreasonably or illegally in the line of duty. I am running to ensure that no resident's rights are sacrificed for federal overreach. When federal officials exceed their authority, I will use the full power of this office to uphold the law.



Tony Lawson

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Jefferson

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Master police officer with Frederick Police Department. Previous: Deputy with Frederick County Sheriff's Office; corporal in U.S. Marine Corps

Political experience: ran for sheriff in 2006

1 - Why are you running for sheriff?

I am running for sheriff because public safety works best when it is accountable and trusted by the whole community. I represent A New Voice for Fairness and Safety. I bring a sense of focus on vision, innovation, change and equality, all to the benefit of our community.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My time in the military gave me a sense of forward thinking and planning, along with the ability to apply tactics to solve rapidly evolving situations. With 33 years in law enforcement and training in police leadership and West Point Leadership Training, I have gained an understanding of how to be a leader.

3 - Do you support the 287(g) program that had allowed the jail staff to screen inmates for legal status and assist in deporting them? With a new Maryland law banning local law enforcement agencies from participating in the 287(g) program, can and should the sheriff's office still work with ICE?

No, I did not support the 287(g) screening program. The current immigration policy should be overhauled. It doesn't make sense for a non-citizen to be able to serve in the U.S. military for years, only to be deported after being honorably discharged after serving. Our state's stance should be adopted by other states to bring change to the federal level.

SHERIFF (REPUBLICAN)



Chuck Jenkins

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Lewistown/ Thurmont

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Current: Frederick County sheriff

Previous: Deputy sheriff (1989- 2006); Comsat Corporation (1974-1989)

Political experience: Frederick County sheriff, five successful campaigns (2006-2026)

1 - Why are you running for sheriff?

I'm running for sheriff for a sixth term because I care very much about the safety of you, our citizens, and the future of this county. I've served this agency and the people for 36 years — 20 years as your sheriff. I like the daily challenges of making decisions that keep you safe, being available to the people to solve their problems, and backing the men and women who protect and serve you.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I bring forward 20 years of experience as sheriff. Only real experience, knowing what matters most to our citizens, and the understanding of the rapidly changing laws can allow someone to effectively manage and lead this agency. Long past careers and decades old college degrees do not prepare someone for the role of sheriff today. I'm the only candidate with the experience to handle the job of sheriff.

3 - Do you support the 287(g) program that had allowed the jail staff to screen inmates for legal status and assist in deporting them? With a new Maryland law banning local law enforcement agencies from participating in the 287(g) program, can and should the sheriff's office still work with ICE?

Absolutely! The 287(g) program was effective in the removal of 1,884 criminal aliens from Frederick County. The banning of 287(g) was a terrible mistake by the General Assembly. The loss of the program will invite criminals to Maryland. The ban has made it extremely difficult to work with ICE to protect the public. The Sheriff's Office should continue to work with ICE within the law. I predict 287(g) will return in future years.



Gary Morton

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Ijamsville

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue

Political experience: First time running for a political office.

1 - Why are you running for sheriff?

I'm running for sheriff to restore trust, strengthen partnerships, and lead with integrity. After 35+ years in law enforcement and as a lifelong Frederick County resident, I've seen how leadership directly affects morale, accountability, and public confidence. The Sheriff's Office should be transparent, professional, and community-focused. I want to ensure deputies are supported, citizens feel protected, and the office reflects servant leadership rooted in responsibility, respect, and public safety.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My 35+ year law enforcement career has included patrol, supervision, command leadership, training, policy development, and interagency coordination. I've led teams, managed critical incidents, conducted background investigations, and worked closely with community partners. I understand budgeting, accreditation standards, and personnel development. As a lifelong resident, I also understand the community we serve. This blend of operational experience and local knowledge uniquely prepares me to lead the Sheriff's Office effectively.

3 - Do you support the 287(g) program that had allowed the jail staff to screen inmates for legal status and assist in deporting them? With a new Maryland law banning local law enforcement agencies from participating in the 287(g) program, can and should the sheriff's office still work with ICE?

While Maryland law now prohibits participation in 287(g), public safety still requires cooperation with federal partners within legal limits. The Sheriff's Office must follow state law while maintaining lawful communication with federal agencies regarding serious offenders. Our priority should be protecting the community from violent criminals, regardless of status, while ensuring all actions comply with Maryland law and constitutional standards.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Maria Augusta Carrasco

Where you live: Middletown area

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Principal consultant at Evidence to Action Advisors. Adjunct faculty member, Johns Hopkins University; public health. My occupation is community public health and behavioral sciences research.

Political experience: First-time candidate for public office

School district-related experience: I have served as the vice chair of the Citizen Advisory Council in Frederick County since last year. I am a graduate-level educator and longtime public health professional focused on evidence-based decision-making, equity, family engagement, and improving outcomes for children and communities. I have also participated in FCPS Board of Education meetings and public comment.

1 - Why are you running for school board?

I am running because the moment demands it. Education shapes a child's life trajectory, and every student deserves a fair chance to succeed. As an immigrant, educator, and public servant, I want to bring evidence, accountability, and a strong equity lens to FCPS. Gaps in achievement, attendance, and opportunity do not close by themselves. We must address them intentionally while maintaining high expectations for every student.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I bring more than 25 years of experience in public service, research, teaching, program leadership, and evidence-based decision-making. I have managed complex initiatives, grants, partnerships, and diverse teams. As a Johns Hopkins faculty member, I teach graduate students how to use evidence to solve real-world problems. That experience prepares me to ask the right questions, evaluate data carefully, and help FCPS make decisions that improve student outcomes.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is closing gaps in student outcomes while maintaining high standards for all students. I would push FCPS to establish a clear learning agenda: identify where gaps are largest, examine root causes, test evidence-informed solutions, and track whether those solutions work. We cannot rely only on averages. The board should ask what is working, for whom, where, and why — and adjust accordingly.



Chloe Celeste

Where you live: Urbana

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: FCC student, food service worker

Political experience: Worked with local activist spaces and organizations (DSA, Indivisible, FIRE) beginning in May 2025

School district-related experience: Was a student at Urbana High School until early 2025; had been in FCPS schools since 2020

1 - Why are you running for school board?

I am running for the Board of Education because I deeply care about the lives and material conditions of everyday FCPS students, and I seek to be a voice for the underrepresented in our schools. As the only leftist in this race, I bring truly progressive values to the table, as well as the knowledge from having gone through the current system, in a way that no other candidate can offer.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

While I may be something of a political newcomer, my lack of traditional experience is more than compensated for with what I've gone through in the local school system. My views and criticisms stem from a perspective of not just the average student, but one that's lived as a visibly queer and neurodivergent person. I've seen the degree of institutional rot that our students are faced with, and it's far too late to ignore.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Defending equality and fighting for our marginalized students is the single most important issue in this election. While a significant portion of this work will be done at the ballot box by the voters, it becomes the responsibility of those elected to be the ones to make a difference. I will spend my time in an effort to represent students from all backgrounds and demographics, instead of just making whatever move is politically expedient.



Casey Day

Where you live: Frederick in the Ballenger Creek area

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: I am a high school teacher at Brunswick High. I have taught for FCPS for 31 years in elementary and middle school classrooms too. I am retiring July 1.

Political experience: I have not run or held public office, but have been appointed to various boards and committees

School district-related experience: Maryland Teacher Advisory Council, FCPS Equity in Grading Workgroup, FCPS Education Reform Council, CTE Department Chair, PTA President, Vice President and Secretary, Ballenger Creek Middle School, Secretary & Founding Member, Tuscaorora High Instrumental Music Booster, FCPS First Year Teacher Mentor, School Improvement Team, AI Interim Policy Workgroup, Time To Learn Testing Policy Development Team

1 - Why are you running for school board?

I'm running for the Board of Education because education has been my life's work. After over 30 years in Frederick County classrooms, I've seen what happens when we get it right and when we fall short. I'm running to strengthen equitable access to opportunities across schools, provide real support for students and educators, and ensure the voices of families and educators are heard in decision making. Our schools shape our future; I'm ready to lead.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I bring over 30 years of experience in FCPS across elementary, middle, and high school. I've served as a classroom teacher, literacy specialist, and now teach Computer Science and CTE. I've advocated with state and national legislators on education policy and built strong relationships with families. I also serve on the Maryland Teacher Advisory Council. My experience gives me a clear, practical understanding of how board policy impacts the classrooms and how to build improvement.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is consistency across our schools. Students' access to courses and programs, enforcement of discipline policies, and delivery of special education services can vary too much by school. I would address this through data-driven oversight, clear expectations, and aligning and reallocating resources to student needs, including expanding access across schools. Every student deserves equitable access, consistent support, and a safe, predictable environment.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Jess Douglass

Where you live: Mount Airy
Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Special education teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools, currently at Northwest High School; previously special education teacher at the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (2021–2025), and English teacher at Clarksburg High School (2010–2015) and Poolesville High School (2004–2008).

Political experience: campaign for state Senate, District 4, in 2018

School district-related experience: Kemptown Elementary PTA newsletter chair, 2016–2017

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I am running for the Frederick County Board of Education because I believe public schools expand opportunity and promote equity. These goals require safe environments, small class sizes, and well-supported teachers who can serve a diverse, growing student body. In today’s uncertain political climate and shifting funding responsibilities, our county faces tough choices. I will work to ensure improving our schools remain a top priority and that we protect students with clarity and resolve.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have spent my entire career as a public school teacher, giving me real-time insight into how board decisions affect students, staff, and schools. I hold a Master’s in adolescent development and work in special education, ensuring access to rigorous curriculum in the least restrictive environment. As a longtime advocate for gun violence prevention, I have the skills and relationships to effectively champion policies and funding that support and protect our students.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Overcrowding is the most important issue in this race. As Frederick County grows, we must invest in new school construction and hire more teachers to reduce class sizes. Large classes limit individualized instruction and strain educators. By expanding capacity and supporting staff, we can improve learning outcomes, create better classroom environments, and attract and retain high-quality teachers — ensuring every student receives the education they deserve.



Heather Fletcher

Where you live: Point of Rocks
Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Volunteer teacher’s assistant and homemaker; former air traffic controller at Andrews Air Force Base; controller for Air Force One

Political experience: Frederick County Board of Education candidate in 2022 primary election; 2024 Board of Education write-in candidate

School district-related experience: On committees at my children’s school and have been a volunteer teacher’s assistant at their school for the past three years.

1 — Why are you running for school board?

For academic excellence, parental rights, fiscal responsibility, and school safety. We have to get back to focusing on academics and preparing students for success after graduation. The FCPS budget will be over \$1 billion next year, yet 68.2% of FCPS graduates can’t pass their College and Career Readiness Tests. We will pay over \$19,000 per student. Carroll County pays just over \$17,000 per student, pays teachers more, and has better test scores.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As a former air traffic controller at Andrews Air Force Base, safety was my top priority. I was a subject matter expert in policies and procedures and trained new hires as a facilities training instructor. I worked collaboratively with FAA management, union leadership, and military personnel. My career required precision, accountability, and teamwork — where lives were on the line. I will bring that same commitment to safety, responsibility, and collaboration to the Board of Education.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is that FCPS has lost focus on academics. Too much emphasis is placed on political ideologies instead of teaching students to read, write, and do math. I will work to restore academic excellence as our top priority by supporting proven curricula, empowering teachers, and ensuring accountability. When we refocus on strong academics, student outcomes improve, schools become stronger, and the entire community benefits.



Nathan Foltz

Where you live: I grew up in Middletown, class of ‘95, but the majority of my adult life have lived in Frederick with my aunt.

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: I am an unemployed special education teacher with an MA degree in SPED AU

Political experience: I was going to run as a Democrat for senator in W.Va., but the Joe Manchin Coal Mafia made me lose my home of 20 years.

School district-related experience: I substitute taught for FCPS 2002–2005 and coached Middletown football with Coach Ambrose. I did DBs and WRs.

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I am running for BOE to improve special education and provide a check on admin and HR still connected to the ex-superintendent.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have a BA in secondary education from Shepherd University and a 53-credit MA degree in special education autism. My two years in grad school for Grand Canyon University, I substitute taught for every special ed and intervention position. With two years, I had 300 days working at every possible job position in SPED AU. I also substitute taught for 15 years in general education.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Special education is most important. But the labor policy for teachers in Md. immediately needs to be reviewed. The no strike provision for Md. teachers is unconstitutional.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rae Gallagher

Where you live: New Market

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Girls on the Run of Mid and Western Maryland, Executive Director (current); Girls on the Run of Mid and Western Maryland, executive director (current)

Political experience: Appointed member of the Board of Education, 2020; Elected member of the Board of Education 2022-present; Appointed member of the Board of Education, 2020; elected member of the Board of Education, 2022-present.

School district-related experience: I have been a member of my children's elementary PTO. I served on the School Improvement Team for Deer Crossing Elementary when my daughter attended.

I have been a member of my children's elementary PTO. I served on the School Improvement Team for Deer Crossing Elementary when my daughter attended.

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I spent the last four years as a Board of Education member, fighting for what matters most for our students: equitable funding, inclusive policies, and putting students first. I am a nonprofit leader and a parent — both roles allow me to see firsthand the challenges and the successes of our schools. I am running because I believe strongly in continuing to make transparent, community-centered decisions that prioritize the needs of our educators and students.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My nonprofit experience included collaboration with school systems across Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. I have experience writing and implementing curriculum to build student leadership, in partnership with educators. I was involved in advocating for the Blueprint for Maryland's future and I believe now, it is important to have BOE members who will continue to advocate for adjustments to ensure locally we can direct resources to the areas of FCPS that need them most.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

There is no one issue that is most important in this race. Members must focus on a variety of issues and understanding the role — establishing policies to guide the system; supporting and supervising the superintendent; establishing a fair and equitable budget; and serving as the quasi-judicial body of the district. Given the budget landscape, members must work collaboratively with state, local, and federal representatives to ensure that funding levels match the needs of the system.



David Migdal

Where you live: New Market

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Retired from FCPS as an assistant principal for 18 years (Middletown ES, Whittier ES, Deer Crossing ES, and Carroll Manor ES).

Political experience: N/A

School district-related experience: I was a member of the PTA at each school where I worked and was a member of several central office committees. I was also a member of the teachers association in MCPS and a member and treasurer of the administrators' association in FCPS.

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I am running for the BOE, because FCPS must return to the basics of education and ensure every student has equal access to learning, regardless of their level or needs. As an FCPS administrator for 18 years, I have worked across departments and have a clear understanding of what is working and what is not. I am not afraid to ask the tough questions necessary to identify challenges and deliver real, practical solutions.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Being a parent, teacher, and administrator in FCPS has prepared me for this role. I have sat on all sides of the table and understand how the system operates and where it needs to change. FCPS must be more transparent in all aspects of working with families, especially in how it spends taxpayer dollars, responds to serious incidents involving staff and students, and supports families navigating the IEP process to secure services their children need.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The school system's budget transparency must be strengthened. While detailed budget documents exist, they're often difficult for the public to understand. The superintendent should clearly explain the difference between mandated and discretionary spending, and provide more accessible, plain-language breakdowns of how taxpayer dollars are used. Citizens deserve to understand not only how money is spent, but also why the budget continues to grow due to factors beyond inflation, including enrollment, state mandates, and staffing costs.



Shelley Potter

Where you live: Downton Frederick

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer:

Currently doing contract work for Outlier; previously worked in DCPS as an English language specialist and prior to that, in the UAE as a curriculum coordinator for an International Baccalaureate school.

Political experience: N/A

School district-related experience: I've been in the field of education for over 15 years.

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I am running for a seat on the Board of Education to bring common-sense leadership, real transparency and a student-first mindset to Frederick County Public Schools. I want to ensure academic excellence, strong teacher support, and a trusted partnership between the schools and our families.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I've been in education for over 15 years. In 2007, I was a volunteer teacher in Eastern Europe, then began teaching in language schools in D.C. After receiving my Master's in Teaching from American University, I taught in Montgomery County Public Schools, as well as Northern Virginia Community College and Montgomery College. I spent five years in the Middle East working in International Baccalaureate Schools as a teacher, in administration and as a curriculum coordinator.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

I believe the most important issue in this race today is academics. Each year, we spend more and more taxpayer money for public education, but students' test scores and proficiency levels continue to decline. This is unacceptable. We have known for years how students learn and the best methods of teaching. We need to limit device use in the classrooms and get back to basics — science backed, proven methods of teaching and learning.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Dean Rose

Where you live: Frederick city
Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Insurance agent

Political experience: Current Board of Education president

School district-related experience: assistant varsity basketball coach at FCPS for 13 years

1 – Why are you running for school board?

Having served on the Board of Education for nearly four years, I still have the passion to help our students and build upon the work we have done in both academics and capital projects.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Prior to these past years of board service, I served on numerous nonprofit and corporate business boards and volunteered for a number of nonprofits in other valuable roles. I also spent 13 years coaching varsity basketball in FCPS.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Addressing educator, support staff, and administrator compensation under challenging revenue conditions in order to retain and hire the very best employees. We need to look at creative ways to maximize our existing budget and continue to advocate at the local and state level for funding specific to employee compensation.



Samuel Rosenbloom

Where you live: Stonegate neighborhood in Frederick

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Nuclear safety engineer, U.S. Dept of Energy

Political experience: none

School district-related experience: none

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I'm running for the Frederick County Board of Education because I believe our students deserve more than job training. FCPS offers strong CTE and MET programs that prepare students to be skilled employees, and that matters. But we should also inspire them to see themselves as innovators, creators, and future employers. Our schools should build confidence, leadership, and entrepreneurial thinking so students graduate ready not only to get a job, but to create one.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My 30 years working in government safety regulation have prepared me to serve on the school board. That work demanded flexibility, rapid problem solving, and the ability to adapt to changing needs in society. I see that same adaptability missing in how our school system responds to the needs of students and our county. When our system can't pivot, our community is underserved — and I want to help change that.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue in any school board election is how well we are teaching children. FCPS exists first and foremost to teach. Budget concerns and parental rights matter, but when most students are not meeting expected levels in math and English, we cannot afford to lose focus. Our community deserves a school system that prioritizes student learning above all else and directs its attention to improving academic outcomes.



Geoffrey D. Seidel

Where you live: Walkersville, Devon Farms
Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: registered nurse, Clinical Project Manager III, Leidos Biomedical Research Inc., 25 years. (Disclaimer: My run for the Board of Education is independent of my employment with Leidos Biomed, and represents my own views.)

Political experience: No political office previously held.

School district-related experience: Parent of two FCPS graduates and a current FCPS grandchild. Active participant in Walkersville Lions Soccer Team Boosters when our sons played with the team.

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I am running for the FCPS Board of Education to promote a “common sense” approach focused on transparency, student safety, supporting teachers, FCPS accountability, and parent involvement. I emphasize restoring trust in schools, addressing budget concerns, and ensuring resources prioritize students and classrooms. As part of a reform-oriented slate, I aim to give families a stronger voice and improve educational outcomes through practical, community-driven decision-making.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My 48-year career as a registered nurse provides frontline experience in care coordination, compliance, and advocating for patients and families. My work has required data-driven decision-making, crisis management, and collaboration across multidisciplinary teams. Combined with community engagement and understanding of public systems, I bring practical budgeting insight, accountability, and a focus on student well-being, safety, and equitable access, skills directly transferable to effective BOE governance and informed policy oversight experience roles.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

While there are many issues to address, the central issue in the FCPS BOE race is restoring “education over indoctrination” and refocusing schools on core academics and practical skills like vocational training. Students are being distracted from the academic fundamentals. In response, I will prioritize curriculum transparency, academic rigor, and expanded career pathways, aiming to return schools to a “common sense” model centered on student achievement and workforce readiness.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Gary Foote
for MD Senate District 5
Your best Foote
Forward for Carroll
County

By Authority of Friends of Gary Foote, Isaac Foote, Treasurer

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Compare the candidates
There is only one candidate with the knowledge, skills and abilities: the experience, training and education, to lead a 21st century sheriff's office in the fastest growing county in Maryland.

**Vote Karl Bickel
for sheriff!**

Authority: Friends of Karl Bickel, Marc Weinberg, treasurer

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARIA CARRASCO

★
Board of Education Candidate
Trusted Leadership for Strong Schools

Educator • Researcher
Public Servant

Vote Maria Carrasco

Excellence and opportunity for every student

By authority of Committee to Elect Maria Carrasco-Jon Noyes, Treasurer

The Frederick News-Post
Keep local journalism
strong in Frederick.

JOIN US AS A SUBSCRIBING
MEMBER TODAY AND GET

4 MONTHS FOR \$79

240.215.8600

FrederickNewsPost.com/subscribe

*See our website for complete subscription rates. Offer valid for new subscribers. Some restrictions may apply.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

HEATHER FLETCHER
for Frederick School Board

★★★★★

**Early Voting
June 11–18
Primary June 23**

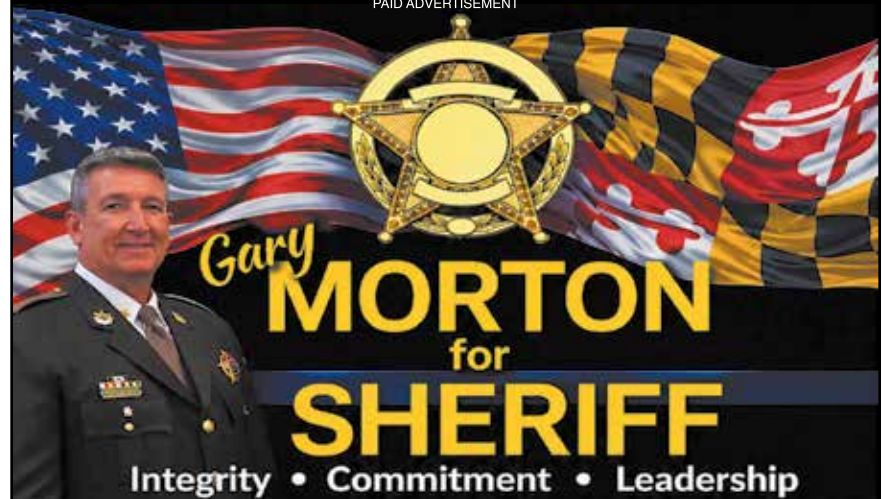


**Academics
Parental Rights
Fiscal Responsibility
School Safety**

fletcherforboe.com

Authority: Citizens for Heather Fletcher, Treasurer Michael Fletcher

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Gary Morton, Candidate for Sheriff of Frederick County

Restoring Trust, Strengthening Community, and Leading with Integrity

As a lifelong resident of Frederick County and a law enforcement professional with over 35 years of experience, I am committed to restoring trust, enhancing public safety, and leading the Frederick County Sheriff's Office with integrity, professionalism, and transparency.

COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

- Strengthen partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to combat crime.
- Expand modern technology and intelligence-led policing to improve response times and crime prevention strategies

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Establish an open-door policy to foster communication and collaboration between law enforcement, community leaders, and residents.
- Strengthen internal oversight and implement fair, unbiased disciplinary procedures to maintain professionalism and public trust.

SUPPORTING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Improve recruitment and retention efforts to attract and keep highly qualified law enforcement professionals
- Restore the Sheriff's Office Training Academy to develop and maintain the highest level of professional training for new recruits and experienced officers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Develop outreach programs to engage youth and at-risk individuals, providing mentorship and alternative paths away from crime.
- Partner with the Board of Education, Fire & Rescue, allied law enforcement agencies, and the State's Attorney's Office to strengthen public safety efforts across the county.

Authority: Friends of Gary Morton for Sheriff, Austin Fogle Treasurer

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Tyler Walker

Where you live: New Market

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer: Regional sales manager for the Mid-Atlantic (DC, MD, VA, WV) for Chatsworth Products. Senior platoon trainer for the Maryland Army National Guard Officer Candidate School (Infantry Officer, Captain). Formerly a social studies teacher in FCPS and Fauquier County, Virginia.

Political experience: None

School district-related experience: I taught eighth grade U.S. History at Monocacy Middle School from 2020 to 2021 and previously taught in Northern Virginia and Pennsylvania after earning my degree in 2015. I have one child in FCPS currently, and two more will attend in the future. I was an assistant football coach at Catocin High School in 2020, and currently coach LOUYAA baseball and football.

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I am running as a father and former educator who resigned from FCPS in 2021 after raising concerns I felt were not addressed. I saw challenges including classroom discipline, limited administrative support, unclear policies, insufficient planning time, security gaps, and teacher pay. I'm running to bring common-sense solutions, improve academic outcomes, strengthen safety, support teachers, ensure fiscal responsibility, and increase parental involvement so all students are better prepared for success.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have served in the military for 16 years in various leadership roles, earning my commission in 2015 and deploying to Poland in 2019, where I planned and led multinational training exercises. I have coached youth sports, substitute taught in Pennsylvania, and held a tenured teaching position at Fauquier High School. I also taught in FCPS, where I saw firsthand the challenges facing educators, students, and parents, giving me practical experience to serve effectively.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

A lack of common sense decision-making and transparency in our education system. First, I would prioritize student safety by strengthening security infrastructure and ensuring active, visible school resource officers. Parents should feel confident their children are safe. I would then refocus on academic excellence by emphasizing reading, writing, and math, supported by early intervention strategies to address learning gaps before they grow and better prepare students for long-term success.



Chad King Wilson Sr.

Where you live: Ballenger Creek

Current occupation and employers; if retired, list your last job and employer:

I am a 19-year veteran high school teacher at Montgomery County Public Schools, teaching special education, alternative education, and social studies. I currently teach at Watkins Mill High School. I have also coached football and track in the county for 19 years.

Political experience: I ran unsuccessfully in 2024 for Frederick County Board of Education. I'm currently serving as an appointed Frederick County Board of Education member.

School district-related experience: n/a

1 – Why are you running for school board?

I'm running for the Board of Education because after 19 years as an educator, coach, and father of two FCPS students, I see this from every angle. Our special education programs need full funding and staffing. Our educators deserve professional compensation and respect. Our fastest-growing county needs capital investment and transparent planning. And every student deserves a safe, inclusive environment with real representation in leadership. I'm running to make that happen for Frederick County.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Nineteen years as an educator in special education, social studies, and alternative education have given me deep knowledge of how schools actually work. I've served on three impact negotiation teams focused on student and staff safety and rights. I've testified and lobbied at the local, state, and national level on issues like funding, special education services, and educator retention. As a coach, mentor, and parent of two FCPS students, I understand what our families need.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The two most important issues are the budget and maintaining a board that protects safe, inclusive schools. On the budget, we need investments that enhance students' access to rich academic programs, ensure educators receive professional-level compensation and support, and maintain adequate staffing without cutting or combining positions. On inclusion, I'll continue to be a voice ensuring that no matter your background, your child goes to a school where they are seen, protected, and truly welcomed.

STATE DELEGATE (DISTRICT 2A, REPUBLICAN)



Dianna Palmer

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Keedysville, Washington County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: I am not currently employed. I've been in school for my double major, a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Psychology

Political experience: none

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I'm running because I'm frustrated with the direction Maryland has taken in recent years. Families are feeling the strain, and too many decisions are being made without real understanding of their impact. I've been actively involved in my community, not just during election cycles, and I'm ready to bring that same accountability and common-sense approach to Annapolis to push for better outcomes.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My experience on the Boonsboro Economic Development Commission has given me hands-on involvement in budgeting, project planning, policy review, and collaboration with local and state stakeholders. Professionally, I've worked in healthcare administration and led teams in high-accountability environments. Just as importantly, I'm a mother raising three children here, actively involved in schools and community programs. I understand both the operational side of decision-making and the real-life impact policies have on families.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Affordability is the most pressing issue. Families are being squeezed by rising costs and a constant increase in taxes that is simply unsustainable. I would focus on responsible spending, cutting unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses, and opposing additional taxes that put further strain on working families. Strengthening local economies and job opportunities is key to long-term financial stability.



William Valentine

Political party: Republican

Which city/town/neighborhood do you live in: Emmitsburg area

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Currently serve as one of the two incumbent delegates in Legislative District 2A. Previous employers: Investigator III, Frederick County State's Attorney's Office (2019-2022); Lieutenant; Westminster Police Department (retired in 2019)

Political experience: Candidate for Frederick County Council District 5 (2018), lost in the primary election; candidate for Maryland House of Delegates, District 2A, elected in 2022

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I am running for reelection to the House of Delegates to continue the work I began in 2022. This includes advocating for public safety, promoting small business growth by limiting regulations and government overreach, while maintaining my strong commitment to the farming and agricultural industries throughout Maryland and specifically Washington and Frederick counties. I will continue to advocate for efficient, transparent and limited state government.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My employment experience includes over 30 years of service in the public sector. This includes municipal, county and state levels of government. During my four years in the Maryland General Assembly, this experience and the network of public and private sector professionals I have developed throughout Maryland has served my legislative district well. This is evident in the successful legislation I've brought forward, including ideas from private, public and professional-based organizations.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue in this race and I believe many races will be a combination of affordability, rising energy costs, taxes and fees. Maryland's reliance on imported energy leaves its citizens vulnerable to substantial price increases and shortages due to the state's high level of energy dependency. Maryland cannot tax and fee itself into prosperity. These increases often lead to limited personal income growth, discourages private-sector business investment and minimizes economic growth.



William Wivell

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Smithsburg area.

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Director of finance and operations, private boarding school; previously, supervisor of taxes for a public utility

Political experience:

Washington County Commissioner (1998-2010, 2014-2015); member of Maryland House of Delegates since 2015

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

To be the voice for residents of District 2A; to bring practical, professional, educational, financial and real-life experiences, and common-sense decision-making to the legislative process.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Certified public accountant. Professional/business experience as tax supervisor for an electric public utility and a business manager for a private boarding school. Local county government experience as a member of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners. Current member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Affordability. Over 300 taxes/fees have been imposed/raised on Marylanders over past four legislative sessions; Maryland still faces nearly \$3 billion structural deficit. Vehicle registration fees doubled. Property assessments increased as high as 40%. Electricity bills have increased 140%+. Solutions: Extend assessment caps to additional properties/lower property tax rates; Electric: Leave RGGI/eliminate surcharge; remove/pause taxes on electric bills; retrofit closed fossil-fuel plants with clean-burning fossil fuel, deploy small nuclear reactor technology.

STATE DELEGATE (DISTRICT 4, DEMOCRAT)



Jerry Donald

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Braddock Heights (mailing address is Middletown)

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Member of the Frederick County Council for 12 years. Retired from Frederick County Public Schools. I was a teacher for 35 years, mostly at Middletown High and Linganore High.

Political experience:

I have been elected to the Frederick County Council since it began in 2014. I have won three consecutive terms, the maximum allowed by the charter.

1 – Why are you running for state delegate?

I am running for delegate to help bring back needed state money for roads, schools, and other important infrastructure. I have been a member of the Frederick County Council for 12 years. In that time, I have worked to bring many things to my district, including parks, schools and libraries. I have been very successful at this and will focus on continuing that success at the state level.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My 12 years on the County Council have prepared me well to be a member of the House of Delegates. I have worked with members of both parties on important legislation. I have written bills that improve water cleanliness, fund schools and libraries, and I wrote the bill that created a Board of Health in Frederick County.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue in this race is whether or not you want to send effective legislators to Annapolis. Delegate Bouchat, a Republican member of the Frederick County delegation, has said if all the Republicans stayed home, nothing would change in Annapolis. So if you want your legislator to have a voice in decision-making, you should vote for me.



Andrew Duck

Political party: Democrat

Where you live:

I graduated from Middletown High School and have lived in Myersville, Frederick, New Market and Brunswick. I currently reside in Rosemont.

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

I am a retired military intelligence officer, having served in the Army over 20 years, including time in West Germany, Korea, three tours in Bosnia, and time on the ground in Iraq. I currently work as a contractor supporting the Department of Defense.

Political experience: I have run for Congress several times, starting in 2006, and was the Democratic nominee twice. I ran for state delegate in 2022.

1 – Why are you running for state delegate?

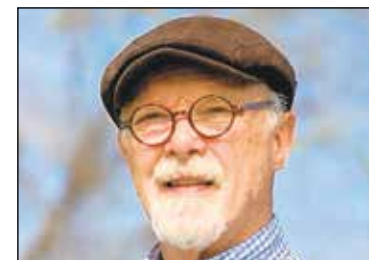
I'm running for delegate because our government is no longer working for most people. Let's fix that. I served in the Army for over 20 years, in Germany, Korea, Bosnia, and Iraq, and I want to continue to serve. When elected, I will fight for all of us, just as I have done throughout my life.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have experience leading people, planning organizational change in large government organizations, and managing large budgets. I spent over 20 years on active duty in the Army, working my way up from private first class to become a military intelligence officer and a company commander. Since retiring from active duty, I have worked for the Department of Defense in the Pentagon for the Army G-2 and other intelligence-related organizations as an enterprise architect.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Affordability. We should immediately stop the illegal tariff taxes, which drive up costs. We didn't need to start a war in Iran, which is driving up energy costs. We should end it immediately. I support Medicare for All to reduce health care costs. High school graduates in Maryland should be able to complete a four-year degree or trade school debt-free. Limit new data centers until electricity is available, to stop rate hikes.



Paul Gilligan

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Burkittsville

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Retired, U.S. Public Health Service Officer O-5 President and CEO of a health care company Currently self-employed, small-business owner

Political experience: Mayor of Burkittsville, 1995-1998

1 – Why are you running for state delegate?

My motive for seeking the office of delegate is to influence state policies around land-use planning and land preservation. My focus is to address important "Nuts & Bolts" issues regarding necessary development such as roads, schools, utilities, housing, etc., while balancing these decisions with the goal of respecting and caretaking of our county's scenic rural beauty, which makes it such a special place to live.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As mayor of Burkittsville (1995-1998), I spearheaded the development of the State Rural Legacy / Smart Growth programs. I have served on several boards and commissions, including the State Rural Legacy Advisory Board, the Frederick County Citizen Review Zoning Committee and Charter Review Committee, and the municipal government Planning and Zoning Board. I am president of the Burkittsville Preservation Association.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

My foremost goal is a comprehensive state "growth and preservation" plan that benefits Frederick County. The 1997 "Smart Growth Act" balances municipal development equally with rural preservation to protect and preserve Maryland's natural scenic beauty. This law is being neglected or implemented contrary to the original intent. Land-use planning is sidetracked for a quick dollar, resulting in sprawl development. My goal is to revitalize such programs and get them back on track.

STATE DELEGATE (DISTRICT 4, DEMOCRAT)



Alleria Stanley

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Brunswick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Retired, U.S. Army

Political experience: None due to military service

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I serve because our community deserves a dedicated servant leader who understands the weight of duty. My 20 years in the U.S. Army taught me that leadership requires listening and action. I chose to move to Frederick County when I retired and even moved my adult children here. I love this area and want to ensure all residents are best served in Annapolis. I will bring a veteran's discipline to District 4.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I spent 20 years leading in high-stakes environments. I progressed from an Apache helicopter repairer and radiology technologist to leading entire departments. My military service taught me the discipline required for governance. Locally, I serve on the Frederick County Human Relations Commission and the Mission Belonging Board. These roles, and my advocacy for military rights and bodily autonomy, provide the legislative foundation and community perspective necessary for Annapolis.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is managing data center growth while protecting our agricultural heritage and ratepayer costs. I will advocate for strict state-level oversight to ensure these facilities do not overburden our power grid or destroy prime farmland. Specifically, I will sponsor legislation requiring data centers to fund their infrastructure and energy needs. We must ensure that industrial expansion serves Frederick County's interests without shifting the financial or environmental burden onto our residents.

STATE DELEGATE (DISTRICT 5, REPUBLICAN)



April Rose

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Westminster

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: 1 — I am one of the current delegates for District 5. In addition, for the past 17 years, I have been working as the senior IT recruiter for NMR Consulting. 2. In my work prior to recruiting, I worked in real estate and mortgage finance for 20 years. I was a mortgage processor, underwriter, licensed agent and appraiser. I worked for various companies, such as Carroll County Bank, Long and Foster/Prosperity Mortgage, BB&T Bank, and Countrywide Home Loans.

Political experience: State delegate for District 5, 2015-present

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I've enjoyed serving District 5 since my appointment in 2015. While greatly outnumbered, it's critically important to have a conservative voice to advocate for important issues affecting Carroll and Frederick counties. I consistently advocate for local control, common-sense business legislation that doesn't harm business growth and lower taxes/costs to family budgets. It's critical that our delegation fights for our area interests on projects such as transmission lines and the push for more solar farms.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

On the central committee (2004-2010), I helped produce events, voter guides, voter registration plans and helped on many campaigns. On large committees knows, it's a challenge to get everyone focused on plans while respecting and hearing the opinions of others. There's an art to compromise necessary to complete goals. My work in real estate was an arena with contract negotiation, problem solving and coming to a consensus for a common goal — a successful settlement.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Energy bills are climbing. With the state's devotion to a radical green agenda, there's no end in sight. There will never be enough wind and solar to run the grid. If we continue importing energy, we're faced with more transmission line projects and solar farms taking up valuable farmland and harming property values. I'll continue to be that voice and put in legislation that protects property and farming and should benefit everyone with lower costs.



Sallie B. Taylor

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Eldersburg, Carroll County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Retired, chief of staff, Delegate Dan Cox, 2020-2021

Political experience: 18 years between 1993-2012, held various senior positions, including district director and policy director, U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett. **1982-now**, served in both paid and volunteer positions for candidates running for offices at all levels of government, local, state and federal. **2022**, unsuccessful campaign for delegate. **1990-1993**, political appointee, President George H.W. Bush administration; assigned to the Department of Labor

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I am running to defend freedom and expand every Marylander's opportunity to prosper. Our state government has become too expensive, too centralized and restrictive, pushing one-size-fits-all policies that erode local control. As a state delegate, I will work for a Maryland where local control is respected, individual ingenuity is allowed to flourish, and private businesses are encouraged to invest and grow. We must trust our citizens more and stop expanding state government.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I spent my entire career working in both state and federal government, I don't just understand the legislative process, I have worked within it. I have firsthand experience developing policy, questioning agency officials, and helping shape legislation and public policies. I know the importance of oversight and the value of each tax dollar. Most of all, I understand that any government action requires real input from citizens.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Maryland must prioritize its long-neglected infrastructure. Alongside tax and regulatory reform, strong infrastructure is vital to economic success. Roads, bridges, water systems, and electrical grids are core government responsibilities that support residents and businesses. The recent sewage spill into the Potomac River highlights the consequences of this neglect. The state should seek help from the private sector and federal government to secure the resources needed to build or upgrade essential infrastructure systems.

STATE DELEGATE (DISTRICT 5, REPUBLICAN)



Chris Tomlinson

Political party: Republican

Where you live: The Village of Melrose, Manchester, Md.

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Deputy director of procurement at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Political experience: state delegate, 2023 to present

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I believe that I have the experience, work ethic, values, political insight, and passion for public service necessary to continue serving effectively in the role of state delegate. I care deeply about my community, Frederick and Carroll counties, and my state, and I want to reinforce what we're doing correctly here in Maryland while challenging and opposing what we're doing wrong in the Old Line State.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As I complete my freshman term as a delegate, I think that I have shown that I am an effective legislator who knows how to get things done in Annapolis. Despite being a Republican, I've passed several bills and had many amendments adopted. Due to my work ethic, I've been the chair of the Carroll delegation since 2024, and House Republican leadership appointed me as the ranking Republican member of my committee.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Affordability, and specifically the incredibly high cost of living in Maryland brought on by excessive taxes and fees in the state. I would address the problem through an immediate reduction in taxes, fees, and, of course, state spending. In addition, our state is currently facing an energy crisis that has been building for decades. As a result, we now have the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project ripping through Frederick County and outrageously high utility bills.



Steve Whisler

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Marriottsville

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Mid-Atlantic Field Services Manager and Military Liaison, Johns Hopkins Health Plans; Elected to Carroll County Board of Education in 2022

Previous jobs: U.S. Navy, retired after 20 years (10 years as an enlisted Persian linguist; 10 years as a cryptologic officer); Vice president, KAB Laboratories; Educator, Baltimore County Public Schools; Principal engineer / technical director, Northrop Grumman

Political experience: Elected to Carroll County Board of Education in 2022

1 - Why are you running for state delegate?

I'm running to bring common sense solutions to Annapolis. Families in Carroll and Frederick counties are being squeezed by rising costs, reckless spending, and policies that undermine public safety and local control. As a Navy veteran, educator, and Board of Education president, I've spent my career serving others. I will fight to restore fiscal discipline, protect our communities, and ensure parents — not bureaucrats — have a stronger voice in their children's future.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I bring a unique combination of military, education, and executive leadership experience. I served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, then worked in the defense industry and as a public school educator. I currently help lead regional operations for a major health plan and serve as Board of Education president, helping govern Maryland's ninth-largest school system. I've also served as a board director for the state's largest credit union, with over \$4 billion in assets. Financial soundness and integrity guide my leadership.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Affordability is the top issue facing families. Rising energy costs, taxes, and inflation — driven by policies from Annapolis — are hurting working families and seniors. I will fight to rein in spending, oppose costly energy mandates that drive up utility bills, and support policies that promote economic growth. Maryland must become more competitive by reducing the tax burden and creating an environment where businesses and families can thrive.

GOVERNOR (DEMOCRAT)



Wes Moore

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Annapolis

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: 63rd governor of the state of Maryland

Political experience: 63rd governor of the state of Maryland, 2023-Present

1 - Why are you running for governor?

I'm running for governor to bring work, wages, and wealth to all corners of our state — to keep building up our economy, make our schools stronger, and our communities even safer.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

In our first term, we've announced Maryland's largest private capital investment in a decade, as well as new jobs and expansions by businesses across the state. Across the entire state of Maryland, there's been a 44% drop in homicides. And, record education funding has led to gains in reading and math scores and a 58% reduction in teacher vacancies.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Making life more affordable for all Marylanders has always been the cornerstone of why I raised my hand to serve. We made Maryland more affordable by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, delivering over \$200 million in utility rebates to families across the state, and providing a tax cut to a majority of Marylanders while balancing four consecutive budgets with strategic decisions like the largest cut to a Maryland budget in 16 years.



Eric Felber

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Bethesda

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Physician

Political experience: Ran unsuccessfully for District 8 House of Representatives in previous election

1 - Why are you running for governor?

I am running to fight for the citizens of Maryland, everyone left behind by the current administration. Maryland deserves better. We have been taxed and fined everywhere and deserve better. I will fight for you.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have been a physician and business owner in Maryland for the past two decades. I have worked seven days a week, 365 days a year, fighting and caring for the community. Maryland is a great state, but needs improvements in many areas that my team would fight everyday for.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Taking care of the citizens of Maryland is the most important issue. They are being used as a stepping stone for another election. I would not do that. I would help every citizen, increase wages, fight for jobs and businesses, lower crime. increase safe and affordable housing, fight for LGBTQ+ rights and reproductive freedoms, and fight for free public transportation, free education, lower utility costs, universal childcare and single-payer universal healthcare.

GOVERNOR (REPUBLICAN)



Carl Brunner

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Westminster

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Firearms instructor; small business owner.

Political experience: none

1 - Why are you running for governor?

I'm running for governor because Maryland families are struggling with rising costs, crime concerns, and a lack of accountability in government. I believe in putting people first, supporting working families, improving public safety, strengthening education, and restoring trust in leadership. Maryland deserves a governor who listens, takes action, and fights for real solutions, not politics as usual.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As a firearms instructor and small business owner, I've worked directly with people from all walks of life and understand the challenges they face. I've taught responsibility, safety, and discipline while running a business in today's economy. These experiences have given me leadership skills, real-world problem-solving ability, and a deep understanding of public safety and economic pressures facing Marylanders.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is the rising cost of living. I would address this by cutting unnecessary government spending, lowering taxes on working families, and holding utility companies accountable for rate increases. I would also focus on growing jobs by supporting small businesses and reducing regulations that make it harder to succeed in Maryland.

L.D. Burkindine

Did not respond.

GOVERNOR (REPUBLICAN)



Dan Cox

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Frederick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Attorney at law

Political experience:

Republican nominee for governor, 2022; Maryland state delegate, District 4 (Frederick/Carroll), 2019-2023; Candidate for Congress (District 6 in 2024, District 8 in 2016); Elected Town Council president (2008-2010, Secretary, Md.); Republican nominee for Clerk of Court, 2006, Dorchester County; Elected law solicitor, 2005, Regent Law School; Chief of staff, Pa. state Sen. Doug Mastriano

1 - Why are you running for governor?

I am running to stand up for Maryland families as we are all facing outrageous tax increases, energy bills quadrupled, cost of living skyrocketing and high crime. I will work to protect the American dream, secure our borders to combat trafficking, and enact common-sense policies that prioritize families, economic growth, and individual freedoms over special interests.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As a state delegate, I fought to reopen schools, churches, and businesses, passing unanimous bills including anti-human trafficking measures. I co-sponsored legislation supporting veterans and taxpayers. I've served in government, worked for Congressman Roscoe Bartlett and as chief of staff for a state senator, and practiced law since 2006 defending constitutional rights. My background in small business and public service provides real-world experience in leadership, policy, and advocacy.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is Maryland's rising cost of living driven by high taxes, energy costs, and crime. I will reduce taxes and fees, restore affordable energy by bringing power plants back online, and strengthen law enforcement. These steps will lower costs, improve public safety, and stop the outmigration of families and businesses from Maryland.



Ed Hale

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Millers Island, Baltimore County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Real estate developer, transportation and logistics company owner; former owner of the Bank of Baltimore and First National Bank of Maryland
Political experience:

I have never held any government-related elected office.

1 - Why are you running for governor?

To restore affordability for the working class and small business sector. To bring fiscal restraint and responsibility back to Annapolis. To make Maryland a state where individuals, families and businesses want to live and conduct business. Right now, our state is prohibitively expensive, causing more families and businesses to leave because they just can't afford it.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I've created tens of thousands of jobs and managed billions of dollars in projects. I have served as the chief executive of companies in various industries, including shipping and logistics, banking and real estate development. Maryland is a \$70 billion business and I know how to run businesses cost-effectively and within budget. I've done it again and again and I'll do it for Maryland.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The economy. It impacts every demographic and every commercial and charitable sector in our state. I will lower taxes, eliminate fees, and work with industry to increase energy supply, thereby reducing power bills. Citizens face a double impact from the high energy bills as retailers pass their power costs onto customers. I will also repeal Senate Bill One and restore energy industry competition in our state. I will take away Exelon's monopoly.



Douglas Larcomb

Political party: Republican. I am a Constitutionalist.

Where you live: Frederick city and Carroll County. Have also lived in Potomac.

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Retired/Redacted. Don't be concerned. I have got this and Wes Moore knows it. I am the only one who is not authoritarian Right that will pull the Left and Independent vote. See my site plus visit Kim Klacik, Yuripzy Morgan, Torrey Snow and Chris Pabst. Get educated fast!

Political experience: did not answer

1 - Why are you running for governor?

You are kidding, right? I have the experience and knowledge to run the state. I intend to create a Public Consensus Voting System through the Board of Elections, whereby registered voters can exercise their democratic right to vote by weighing in on laws I want to repeal, matters in consideration in the General Assembly whether small-ticket items or large, so I can present the data to the General Assembly for the people.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Mentored by a Common Pleas Probate Judge. I have owned and operated as a CEO two corporations and two small businesses. I understand business acumen. I will bring the corporate tax rate down to 3.5% in the state of Maryland for new businesses. It currently is not competitive and expensive to conduct business. Economic growth is abysmal, ranked 41 in the country. Job growth is ranked 50 in the country. The current rate is 8.25%.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Affordability. The state is short on inventory of housing in Frederick and far beyond to the Eastern Shore as businesses such as Airbnb investors are buying all of the properties for tourism. I will push to impose a real estate tax of five times the current rate for out-of-state owners of these types of investments and impose a 100% hotelier tax on their rates to make the businesses cost prohibitive. This will free inventory.

Facts are not free.

Anyone can spout off on social media. Anyone can post their personal hot take on the issue of the day, free of facts, free of anything but their own opinion and bias.

Real news is different. Real news comes from experienced journalists who put aside their assumptions and talk to people on all sides of an issue.

Real news is hard. When you work for an organization devoted to real journalism, you are challenged daily by your editors. Hot takes don't cut it –you have to do the work. That means talking to experts, mastering the issues, confirming every fact.

Real news rocks the boat. Sometimes, people don't want you looking into what's going on. They hide information. They clam up, they refuse to release documents. They even sue you. Real news organizations fight back.

Real news is not free. If we are going to work together to move our community forward, we need facts – and we need professional journalists to cover the news. That's what we do – and we need your support, now more than ever.

Join us as a subscribing member today.

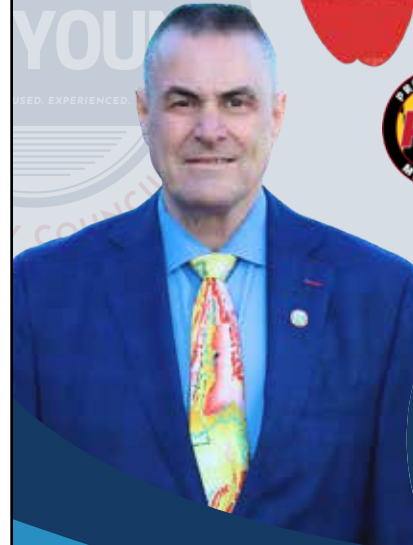
The Frederick News-Post

351 Ballenger Center Drive
Frederick, MD 21703

FrederickNewsPost.com
301-662-1177

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ENDORSED BY:



BY AUTHORITY OF CHERYL YOUNG, TREASURER

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



A Mother,
a Teacher,
**a Voice for
Our Schools.**

I will fight to ensure that FCPS has the teachers and specialists our children need to thrive. When our staff are supported, our kids succeed.

Learn more at
ElectJessDouglass.com

JD Jess Douglass
FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Authority of Friends of Jess Douglass
Karen Duffy Treasurer

GOVERNOR (REPUBLICAN)



John A. Myrick

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Lanham, Prince George's County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Current: federal contractor, senior strategic advisor to DHS-CISA. **Previous:** 30 years with the federal government as a senior counterintelligence agent and senior intelligence officer. **Prior:** Harford County deputy sheriff; Retired after 23 years with the U.S. Air Force Reserve (decorated combat veteran)

Political experience: I have not previously held public office.

1 – Why are you running for governor?

As a Marylander whose family has been here since 1640, I believe Maryland needs a governor who cares about Marylanders, one who will use common-sense and good judgment to administer the state. We need a governor who will exercise fiscal restraint to rein in out-of-control spending; fight fraud, waste, and abuse; lower taxes, fees and energy costs; provide for our safety, and rebuild our failed educational system. We will restore prosperity to all Marylanders.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I have spent my life as a public servant and have never forgotten for whom I work — the people. With over three decades of federal service at the highest levels of government, I have worked with federal, state, and local governments to provide for the needs of Americans. I have overseen multi-billion-dollar budgets and have supervised teams from four people to several thousand. I have worked with Congress and understand how they make decisions.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Restoring common-sense and leadership to Annapolis is the top priority. By doing that, we can rein in out-of-control spending; drive down taxes, fees, and energy costs; provide economic opportunities across Maryland; improve public safety; and repair our failed school system. Working with the General Assembly, we will reduce taxes and fees, cut energy costs by 50% in four years, lower business taxes and reduce regulations. Marylanders deserve better.



Michael Oakes

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Westminster

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: did not answer

Political experience: did not answer

1 – Why are you running for governor?

Because there are no real honest candidates in the party. Mostly has-been, never-were.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Government should be run more like a business, not an AGT show. 53 years of owning several businesses.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

There are no unimportant issues. Each should be taken as is, one at a time. Any candidate that tells you "on day one, I will do this" is fooling the voter.



Nancy Jane Taylor

Political party: Republican

Where you live: City of Hagerstown

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Retired.

Last job was general associate at the Harbour movie theater in Parole, Md.; concessions at Six Flags amusement park.

Political experience: none

1 – Why are you running for governor?

Irritated with the current status quo of the governments, local and federal.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

Mother of 13 children. Oh, no, don't show favoritism! Complex relationships.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Homelessness work with individual property owners. Utilize vacant properties.



Shannon Wright

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Baltimore City

Current occupation and employers: Urban Engagement Initiative

Political experience: Republican mayoral nominee, 2016, 2020

1 – Why are you running for governor?

I'm running because Maryland families deserve leadership that listens, leads with integrity, and delivers results. Too many decisions are made without the people most affected at the table. I'm stepping forward to bring transparency, accountability, and practical solutions to the issues that matter

most: education, public safety, and economic stability. My goal is to make Maryland a family-first, family-friendly state we can all be proud to call home.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I've spent years serving Maryland families as a pastor, advocate, and policy leader — bringing people together, solving problems, and writing legislation that reflects real community needs. I know how to build coalitions, navigate complex systems, and deliver results without wasting taxpayer dollars. Leadership is about service, and that's the work I've been doing my entire career.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue in this race is that Maryland families don't trust their government to deliver. Costs keep rising, crime keeps climbing, and too many leaders keep talking instead of fixing what's broken. I would confront this head-on: Demand accountability in every agency, strengthen schools, crack down on violent crime, and stabilize the economy so families can actually afford to stay here. Maryland needs a family-first agenda backed by real action, not excuses.

CONGRESS (DISTRICT 6, DEMOCRAT)



George Gluck

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Rockville/Norbeck Manor

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Retired, but ... high school STEM/social studies substitute teacher for MCPS, FCPS, WCPS, ACPS, GCPS (all public school system in the 6th Congressional District)

Political experience: Seven unsuccessful campaigns for office as a Green Party candidate: 2009 — Special district election to the Montgomery County Council; 2010 — At-large election to the Montgomery County Council; 2012 — Congressional District 8; 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 — Congressional District 6. Two unsuccessful campaigns for office as a Democrat: 2022, 2024 — Congressional District 6 (Note: In 2012, I chose to run for Congress, knowing I would lose until the social, economic and political status of the country deteriorated enough. We are there now!)

1 – Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

I am running to restore and enhance our democracy, for our children. As my 2018 campaign slogan reads: "Make America GOOD again. This time for ALL of US!" © Over the previous quarter century, I have been a high school STEM/social studies substitute teacher to more than 100,000 CD6 students, from Northern Garrett High School in Garrett County to Quince Orchard High School in Montgomery County.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As a mathematician and computer analyst, I have been trained to recognize problems others tend to miss and provide effective, efficient solutions to these problems. I look forward to conversing with experts in areas such as the climate catastrophe, healthcare (I assisted in this accomplishment) and cybersecurity at congressional hearings to repair the damage done to our science/education-related agencies.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Loss of democracy over the past four decades is a contributing factor to our government being unable to retain our confidence. A recent Gallup poll displays drops in confidence from 1973 to 2023: **Presidency:** 52% to 26%; **Supreme Court:** 45% to 27%; **Congress:** 42% to 8%

Eliminate gerrymandering, assuring all citizens who wish to vote can easily register and have their votes counted, and encouraging states to institute ranked choice voting.



Alexis Goldstein

Political party: Democratic

Where you live: Gaithersburg

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Markets and policy fellow, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), 2022-2025; Director of financial policy, Open Markets Institute, 2021-2022

Political experience: I am a first-time candidate for elected office.

1 – Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

MD-6 deserves a representative who's working for us, not billionaires. I'm running to fund schools and childcare, not wars. To reverse the gutting of federal agencies and research that have taken jobs from our district. To stop data centers and ICE jails being built in our community, or anyone else's. The gap between what government could do for all of us and what our leaders are doing is a chasm; I'm running to close it.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

On Wall Street, I developed intricate knowledge of financial instruments and institutions. Over a decade-plus organizing for student debt relief and stricter regulation of financial firms, cryptocurrency, and Big Tech, I developed key relationships on the Hill and in regulatory agencies, and saw the ins and outs of how government and businesses exchange money and power. I will draw on my expertise and relationships to make these systems work for us, not the billionaires.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Data centers, which sit at the nexus of many issues we're navigating in MD-6 and nationally: mass surveillance

ICE and law enforcement abuses
military action, like the AI-guided strike that murdered 170 people at a girls' elementary school in Iran

Climate: water usage, increasing temperatures in areas near data centers

Affordability: electricity bills spiking to subsidize tech companies

I would stop data center construction by introducing legislation to target tax abatements offered to data centers.



April McClain Delaney

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Potomac, Montgomery County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer:

Current: Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives

Previous: Senior roles at the U.S. Department of Commerce (including NTIA, focused on broadband expansion). Attorney in private practice.

Political experience: U.S. representative for Maryland's 6th Congressional District (elected 2024, serving since 2025)

No prior elected office; first run for public office in 2024

1 – Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

I'm running to lower costs and expand opportunities for families across Western Maryland. Too many people are working hard but still struggling with housing, healthcare, and everyday expenses. I believe in practical solutions, strong partnerships, and delivering results. This district deserves a representative who listens, brings people together, and fights to ensure every community has a fair shot at economic security and upward mobility.

2 – What experience prepared you for this role?

My career has been about solving problems and delivering results. I've worked in the public and private sectors, including at the Department of Commerce and leading efforts to expand broadband and innovation. In Congress, I've already secured millions in community funding and worked across the aisle to get things done. I understand how the government can work better for people when it is focused on outcomes, not politics.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it? (75 words)

Affordability is the top issue. Families are feeling squeezed by high costs for housing, healthcare, and groceries. I'm advancing a "Cost Down, Opportunity Up" agenda by lowering prescription drug prices, increasing housing supply, and investing in good-paying jobs. That means targeted tax relief, workforce development, and strengthening local economies, so people can build stable, secure lives in the communities they call home.

CONGRESS (DISTRICT 6, DEMOCRAT)



David Trone

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Potomac

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Owner, Total Wine & More. Congressman, Maryland's 6th District (2019-2025)

Political experience: U.S. House of Representatives, Maryland's Sixth Congressional District, 2019-2025. Candidate for U.S. Senate 2024.

1 - Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

I'm running for Congress because this moment demands leaders who fight for Marylanders. Across the district, we've heard that April McClain Delaney isn't reflecting our values, voting with Trump 22% of the time. When I was in Congress, I showed up, stood up to Trump, and took on tough fights to protect families, expand opportunity, and deliver results — whether in an election year or not. Maryland needs a fighter, and I won't back down.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I've spent my entire life fighting. Growing up on my family's struggling farm and building a business from the ground up taught me the importance of fighting for your people — values I have carried into public service. Success means nothing if you don't give back, and that's why I've stood up to politicians and policies hurting working families, and why I'll keep fighting to make life easier for Marylanders.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Trump is making life harder for Maryland families — and too many Democrats in Congress enable him. I have and will continue to stand up to Trump's chaos: his attacks on immigrants, reckless tariffs, and rising costs. We can't afford a Democrat who gives an inch when it comes to harming those who call Maryland home. In Congress, I'll keep fighting to lower costs, protect our communities, and put Maryland families first every day.

Kiambo "Bo" White

Did not answer questions.



Ethan P. Wechtaluk

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Clarksburg

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: full-time political candidate; formerly employed by Booz Allen Hamilton (2013-2025)

Political experience: No prior elected political experience.

1 - Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

After 15 years working inside federal agencies — CMS, the VA, FDA, the Health Insurance Marketplace — I've seen firsthand why government so often falls short. District 6 families deserve a representative who understands how the system actually works and can make it deliver. I'm running because this moment demands accountability and experience together, not one or the other. I'm ready to get to work on day one.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My career has been spent managing large-scale federal technology and healthcare programs — work that required navigating bureaucracy, building coalitions across agencies, and delivering results under real pressure when failure wasn't an option. I hold an MBA and have advised agencies on systems that directly affect people's lives. Beyond work, I'm a husband, father of three, youth coach, and longtime Maryland resident who understands what this community needs.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

Healthcare costs are crushing Maryland families — premiums, prescriptions, out-of-pocket expenses that force impossible choices. I've spent years working inside the systems that are supposed to fix this: CMS, FDA, the Health Insurance Marketplace. I know where the leverage points are and where the system is rigged against patients. I support Medicare for All as the path to universal, affordable coverage — and I'll bring the inside knowledge of how to actually get there.



Altimont Mark Wilks

Political party: Democrat

Where you live: Washington County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: serial entrepreneur, social justice advocate. Top-level business advisory.

Political experience: Altimont Mark Wilks has been the driving force behind the scenes of historic accomplishments in social justice reforms and effectively dismantling discriminatory policies at the SBA and the USDA on behalf of more than 89 million people across this country.

1 - Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

Because I am the true definition of being a representative of the people of the 6th District. My lived experiences in economic development and business development, along with my proven commitment to community and public safety, makes me the ideal candidate to represent every one of our neighbors within the 6th District.

2 - What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

I've been intricately involved in several political campaigns. I'm an advisor to numerous government officials, community stakeholders, businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland and the country. My congressional experience includes successfully challenging the Trump administration in U.S. District Court, which resulted in the dismantling of discriminatory Small Business Administration practices. I successfully challenged the Biden administration and USDA in making SNAP/EBT accessible to millions of justice impacted people and their communities throughout the U.S.

3 - What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The economy. Real affordable housing. "Stopping the Madness"... and more. When I am elected, I will continue the positive progressive work that I have demonstrated and be a true voice for everyone, regardless of political party.

CONGRESS (DISTRICT 6, REPUBLICAN)



Chris Burnett

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Gaithersburg

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Lt. Col., U.S. Marine Corps, retired

Political experience: First-time candidate after leaving active duty in 2025

1 – Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

I am running for Congress in Maryland's 6th District because Washington is broken. As a 22-year Marine Corps officer with five deployments and as a lawyer who has defended individual rights, I have learned that real leadership means putting service before self. I will fight for secure borders, lower costs, more opportunity, and less government. It is time to replace out-of-district millionaires with accountable leaders who put Maryland families, farmers, and small businesses first.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

As a 22-year Marine Corps officer with five deployments, I developed deep expertise in federal law, defense policy and budgets, international law, and national security. I was a legal advisor at the Pentagon, U.S. Southern Command, and Marine Forces Cyberspace Command, solving complex problems and leading advanced operational planning under extraordinary circumstances. This prepared me to deliver disciplined, accountable leadership in Congress on issues of national security, affordability, and restoring trust for Maryland's 6th District.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The most important issue is affordability — high housing costs, energy prices, and taxes are crushing families, farmers, and small businesses in Western Maryland. I will address it by championing the Western Maryland Innovation Corridor — a public-private initiative to drive private investment in infrastructure, responsible energy production, and job creation. By cutting regulations and fostering opportunity instead of government dependency, we can lower costs and build lasting prosperity through free enterprise.



Robin Ficker

Political party: Republican

Where you live: Boyds in Montgomery County

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held); if retired, list your last job and employer: Farmer; broker, Robin Realty

Political experience:

State delegate in District 15, 1979-83.

Unsuccessful runs for public office include:
U.S. House of Representatives in District 8 (1972)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 8 (1974)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 8 (1976)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 8 (1980)

State delegate in District 15 (1982)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 6 (1984)

State Senate in District 15 (1986)

Montgomery County Board of Education (1988)

State delegate in District 15 (1994)

U.S. Senate in Maryland (2000)

State Senate in District 39 (2002)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 8 (2004)

Montgomery County executive (2006)

Montgomery County Council in District 4 (2009)

Montgomery County Council in District 2 (2010)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 6 (2012)

State Senate in District 15 (2014)

U.S. House of Representatives in District 6 (2016)

Montgomery County executive (2018)

Governor (2022)

U.S. Senate (2024)

Successful campaigns for property tax limitation and term limits charter amendments.

Did not answer questions.



Mariela Roca

Political party: Republican

Where you live: City of Frederick

Current occupation and employers (may also list up to two previous jobs you've held):

Medical logistics contractor for the U.S. Department of Defense. **Previous:** VA Transition Team, 2025 (appointed under President Trump administration); U.S. Air Force (2005–2010, staff sergeant E-5, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom); federal employee at Fort Detrick supporting DoD medical supply chain.

Political experience: Ran for Maryland's 6th Congressional District in 2022, 2024

1 – Why are you running for the 6th District congressional seat?

I'm running for Congress in Maryland's 6th District because Washington has lost touch with working families, veterans, and commonsense values. As an Air Force veteran, single mom, and DoD medical logistics professional, I've lived the American Dream through service and hard work. I will fight to lower costs, secure our border, support our military, cut wasteful spending, and restore America First priorities, so Frederick County and Western Maryland families thrive again.

2 – What experience (work/political/other) prepared you for this role?

My VA Transition Team service under President Trump, combined with six years in the Air Force — including a 2007 deployment to Afghanistan providing lifesaving medical logistics — equipped me with executive-level government leadership. As a DoD contractor and former federal employee at Fort Detrick managing complex medical supply chains, plus earning a Doctor of Business Administration while raising a family, I bring proven experience fixing bureaucracy, improving efficiency, and delivering results for veterans and service members.

3 – What is the most important issue in this race? How specifically would you address it?

The economy and skyrocketing cost of living. Families in the 6th District struggle with inflation, high energy prices, and housing costs. I would cut wasteful federal spending, reduce regulations that drive up costs, bring high-paying jobs back through pro-growth policies, and lower taxes. My logistics and business administration background equips me to tackle supply chain vulnerabilities and end reliance on adversaries like China.



ALSO ON THE BALLOT

The following candidates also will be on the primary ballot, although most of them are unopposed.

State comptroller (one)

- Brooke Elizabeth Lierman, Democrat (unopposed)
- Sonya Dunn, Republican (unopposed)

State attorney general (one)

- Anthony G. Brown, Democrat (unopposed)
- James B. Rutledge III, Republican (unopposed)

State Senate, District 2 (one seat)

- Eric Martin Van Buren, Democrat (unopposed)
- Paul D. Corderman, Republican (unopposed)

State Senate, District 3 (one seat)

- Karen Lewis Young, Democrat (unopposed)
- Shelley Aloï, Republican (unopposed)

State Senate, District 4 (one seat)

- Lara Westdorp, Democrat (unopposed)
- William “Bill” Folden, Republican (unopposed)

State Senate, District 5 (one seat)

- Gary Foote, Democrat (unopposed)
- Justin Ready, Republican (unopposed)

State House of Delegates, District 2 (two seats)

- John D. Leonard, Brandon Thompson, Democrats (unopposed)

State House of Delegates, District 3 (three seats)

- Kris Fair, Ken Kerr, Karen Simpson, Democrats (unopposed)
- Angela McIntosh, Ashley Nieves, Republicans (unopposed)

State House of Delegates, District 4 (three seats)

- Jason E. Keckler, April Fleming Miller, Jesse T. Pippy, Republicans (unopposed)

State House of Delegates, District 5 (three seats)

- Dayana Bergman, Alison Rudolph, Courtney Alexa Welch, Republicans (unopposed)

Judge of the circuit court (one)

- Julia Ann Minner, Frederick County (unopposed)

Frederick County executive (one)

- Jessica Fitzwater, Democrat (unopposed)

Frederick County Council, at large (two seats)

- Pamela Ciliberti, Jack Felton, Republicans (unopposed)

Frederick County Council, District 1 (one seat)

- Frank J. Hollewa, Republican (unopposed)

Frederick County Council, District 3 (one seat)

- Tammie Baugher, Republican (unopposed)

Frederick County Council, District 4 (one seat)

- Kavonté Duckett, Democrat (unopposed)
- Chaz Packan, Republican (unopposed)

Frederick County Council, District 5 (one seat)

- Johnny Mercer, Democrat (unopposed)
- Mason Carter, Republican (unopposed)

Frederick County state’s attorney (one)

- Charlie Smith, Republican (unopposed)
- There are no Democratic candidates

Frederick County clerk of the circuit court (one)

- Megan LeRoux, Democrat (unopposed)
- Sandra K. Dalton, Republican (unopposed)

Frederick County register of wills (one)

- Chris Manners, Democrat (unopposed)
- Mary C. Rolle, Republican (unopposed)

Frederick County judge of the orphans’ court (three)

- Shuan Butcher, Lois Jarman, Susan Reeder Jessee, Carter Logan Lenz, Democrats (vote for up to three)

- Rebecca Chmelik, Karen Dacey, Susan W. Wilson, Republicans (unopposed)

Democratic Central Committee (vote for up to 14. No more than half of the members can be elected from the same gender)

- Andrew A. Burgoyne, male
- Deborah Carter, female
- Patricia Clements, female
- Stephen A. Duckett, male
- Taylor D. Elder, male
- Milton Hallin, male
- Bassant Kadry, male
- Mari Lee, female
- William White Tison Pugh, male
- Deborah Reynolds, female
- David Schmidt, male
- Jessica M. R. Tuel, female
- Nomination vacant
- Nomination vacant

Republican Central Committee (vote for up to 9)

- Shelley Aloï
- Heath S. Barnes
- Christian E. Browning
- Kai Burhans
- Mason Carter
- Rebecca Chmelik
- Pamela Ciliberti
- Logan A. Cole
- Samantha Andrea Fangmeyer
- Heather Fletcher
- Patrica Kelly
- Ashley Nieves
- Christopher R. Ragen
- Billy Shreve
- Kate Taylor
- Justin Wages

Leadership Built for What's Next

Jamie
SHOPLAND

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL • DISTRICT 2

PEOPLE-CENTERED PROGRESS



Early Voting: **June 11 to 18**

Primary Election: **June 23**



TWIN MOM

DISABILITY
ADVOCATE

TECHNOLOGY
STRATEGIST

GIRL SCOUT
TROOP LEADER

20-YEAR
FREDERICK
COUNTY
RESIDENT

DEMOCRAT FOR FREDERICK
COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

ABOUT JAMIE

Jamie Shopland is an Urbana resident, mom of 7-year-old twins, technology strategist, and systems thinker with a record of bringing people together to co-create practical solutions that serve both mission and people.

- Director, Amtrak Digital Technology
- Chair, Frederick County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee
- Member, Maryland Longitudinal Data System Governing Board
- Troop Leader, Girl Scouts Nation's Capital

JAMIE'S PRIORITIES

- Fully fund strong, inclusive public schools for educators and support staff
- Steward growth responsibly to preserve farms and open space for our children
- Expand transit to better connect our communities from Urbana and beyond
- Cut bureaucracy and hidden costs so families can actually afford to live here
- Modernize government to keep pace with change and deliver results
- Provide top-notch constituent services



Visit www.JamieShopland.com or email Jamie@JamieShopland.com to learn more.

By Authority: Friends of Jamie Shopland, Elizabeth Heaney, Treasurer.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Bring the Fight Back to Washington

Endorsed By:

Maryland State Education Association

Jessica Fitzwater, Frederick County Executive

Brad Young, Frederick County Council

President

Renee Knapp, Frederick County Council

Katie Nash, Frederick City Council

Ron Young, Former District 3 State Senator

John Miller, Burgess of Middletown

Reproductive Justice Maryland

IAFFF Local 3666

IBEW Locals 307, 24, 26

SMART 100

LIUNA

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



RE - ELECT DEMOCRAT
DAVID TRONE
U.S. CONGRESS

Paid for by David Trone for Maryland, Inc.