

Frederick County Voters' Guide

2026

Midterm General Election

Presented by The League of
Women Voters of Frederick, Maryland



This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Frederick County, Maryland. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to assist citizens as they prepare for the general election. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

The League asked all candidates to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Candidates running for a particular office were asked identical questions. Responses from candidates are printed exactly as submitted. We did not edit for content, spelling,

or grammar. All responses were limited to 500 characters, and any additional material was cut off at that point. If a candidate did not respond by our deadline, "No response received by deadline" is printed.

Additional information on the candidates is available at VOTE411.org, which has any updates received after our deadline. Candidate websites provide additional biographical and policy information. If the candidate submitted a campaign website, it is listed under her/his name.

The League assumes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

Offices and Candidates are listed in Ballot Order. These abbreviations are used.

DEM = Democratic Party
 REP = Republican Party
 Lib = Libertarian Party
 Grn = Green Party
 Con = Constitution Party
 Wor = Working Party
 Una = Unaffiliated Candidate

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VOTING INFORMATION

EARLY VOTING

There are five Early Voting Centers in Frederick County.

You can stop at any of them to cast your ballot in person during the early voting period.

Where:

Libertytown VFD Activities Building
 12027 South Street, Libertytown, MD 21762

Middletown VFD Activities Bldg
 1 Firemans Ln, Middletown, MD 21769

Thurmont Regional Library
 76 East Moser Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788

Trinity Recreation Center
 6040 New Design Road, Frederick, MD 21703

Urbana Regional Library
 9020 Amelung St, Frederick, MD 21704

When:

7:00 am to 8:00 pm from **Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026** through
 and including **Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026.**

If you vote during Early Voting, you cannot vote by mail-in ballot or on Election Day.

ELECTION DAY VOTING:

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

BY MAIL

You can request a mail-in ballot (formerly called an absentee ballot) in these ways:

1. In person at the county Board of Elections office (8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, MD 21701)
2. Request a mail-in ballot or choose to be put on the permanent mail-in ballot list, here: www.elections.maryland.gov. You can mail your ballot back to The Board of Elections in the postage-paid return envelope, or you can use one of our convenient drop boxes. Ballots must be placed in a drop box or postmarked by **8:00 PM on Election Day**.

An application for a mail-in ballot must be received by your local Board of Elections

- By **Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026**, if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax; or
- By **Friday, Oct. 30, 2026**, if you want to download your ballot from the State's website. You must still print and mail the ballot - you cannot return it by email.

You must return your mail-in ballot in a properly addressed envelope, by:

- Mail **NEW FOR 2026**: If you choose to return your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked no later than **8 pm election day, November 3, 2026** in order to be counted. The US Postal Service has changed its procedures for postmarking mail, so it is possible that a ballot put in the mail on election day might not be postmarked until a day or two later. On or before election day, it is best to return your ballot through a ballot drop box or at your precinct polling place.
- Ballot dropbox: Must be dropped off by the time polls close on Election Day (See list below.)
- Hand-deliver to an early voting center (see list on previous page), or to your local board of elections (address is below). You must deliver it by **8:00 PM on election day**, or you may take it to your precinct polling place on Election Day.
- **Important**: You cannot return your voted ballot online, by email, or fax.

Drop Box Locations

- **Brunswick Middle School**: 301 Cummings Drive, Brunswick, MD 21716
- **Crestwood Middle School**: 7100 Foxcroft Drive, Frederick, MD 21703
- **Frederick County Board of Elections Office**:
8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, MD 21701
- **Libertytown VFD Activities Building**:
12027 South Street, Libertytown, MD 21762
- **Middletown VFD Activities Building**:
1 Fireman's Lane, Middletown, MD 21769
- **Oakdale High School**: 5850 Eaglehead Drive, Ijamsville, MD 21754
- **Thurmont Regional Library**: 76 E. Moser Road, Thurmont, MD 21788
- **Trinity Recreation Center**:
6040 New Design Road, Frederick, MD 21703
- **Urbana Regional Library**: 9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, MD 21704
- **Waverly Elementary School**: 201 Waverly Drive, Frederick, MD 21702
- **William R. Talley Recreation Center**:
121 N. Bentz Street, Frederick, MD 21701
- **Wolfsville Elementary School**:
12520 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, Maryland 21773

NOTE: If you request a mail-in ballot, you will not be permitted to cast an ordinary ballot during Early Voting or on Election Day. Instead, you will be provided a provisional ballot that will be counted only if your mail-in ballot is not received.

ELECTION INFORMATION

Don't know your polling place? Not sure if you are registered?

Visit - <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/votersearch>

Maryland State Board of Elections
P.O. Box 6486
Annapolis, MD 21401-0486
Phone: 1-800-222-VOTE (8683);
Toll Free: 800-222-8683
Maryland Relay Service: 800-735-2258
Hours: 8 - 5 Monday - Friday

Frederick County Board of Elections
8490 Progress Drive
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-VOTE (8683)
ElectionBoard@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Rumors About the Election?

Visit <http://www.elections.maryland.gov>, click on the link for "Press Room", and you will see a link labeled "Rumor Control."

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

DUTIES: The Governor is chief executive officer of the state and commander-in-chief of the Maryland National Guard. The Governor appoints state judges and heads of statewide departments, proposes the annual state budget to the Maryland General Assembly and may veto legislation passed by it. The Lieutenant Governor assists the Governor, carries out specific duties assigned, and fills the office of Governor if the incumbent dies, resigns, or is incapacitated.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two consecutive terms.

SALARIES: Governor \$195,000
Lieutenant Governor \$175,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide as a team.

WEBSITE: governor.maryland.gov

The Issues

AFFORDABILITY:

Many Marylanders are struggling to afford basic expenses such as housing, groceries, childcare, and healthcare. What will you do to make living in Maryland more affordable?

VOTING: What strategies will you use to encourage all eligible voters to vote in every election?

HEALTHCARE: What will you do to make sure people in Maryland have prompt and timely access to needed healthcare across Maryland, including rural and inner-city communities?

ECONOMY: In light of economic uncertainties, declining federal dollars, and loss of federal jobs, what will you do to promote economic and job growth?

IMMIGRATION: Federal agents have been stopping and detaining residents in Maryland and across the nation, often using aggressive tactics. What is your position on this?

BACKGROUND: What else do you want voters to know about you?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Wes Moore/Aruna Miller

Democratic Party

Campaign Website: WesMoore.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/share/18UnHSZ4Sv/?mibextid=wwXlfr

Campaign Email:

carter@wesmoore.com

Campaign Phone: 434-942-4755

Campaign Instagram: [@iamwesmoore](https://www.instagram.com/iamwesmoore)

AFFORDABILITY: We must protect our people, drive down costs, and strengthen our state's economic competitiveness. It is our responsibility to build an economy that makes sure more Marylanders can afford to live here, buy a home, create wealth, and live a secure middle-class life. That's why we're creating jobs, building more affordable housing, and introducing legislation to combat price gouging.

VOTING: Democracy works best when everyone is involved—it doesn't matter what political party you belong to, where you live, or how you worship, we have a duty to make our voices heard. That's why we've passed legislation to protect election workers and keep ensuring Maryland's elections remain free and fair.

HEALTHCARE: Affordable, accessible, and equitable health care is the foundation on which we build everything else—from safer neighborhoods to more vibrant communities. Your zip code shouldn't determine your level of care, or if you can access it. That's why we've fought to fund rural hospitals and create quality and accessible healthcare across the state.

ECONOMY: After years of economic stagnation, we are jumpstarting Maryland's economy. In just three years, Maryland has added nearly 100,000 jobs and created over 35,000 new places of business. We will continue to pass legislation and take actions that have created jobs and helped Maryland create about 45% more new establishments each month than in 2019

IMMIGRATION: In Maryland, we defend Constitutional rights and Constitutional policing—we will not allow untrained, unqualified, and unaccountable ICE agents to deputize our law enforcement officers. We will continue to work with federal partners to hold violent offenders accountable—while refusing to blur the lines between state and federal authority in ways that undermine the trust between law enforcement and your communities.

BACKGROUND: It is the honor of my life to serve Maryland. From creating 100,000 jobs to bringing down violent crime to record lows, we've made great progress, but the job isn't finished. I'm asking for your support to continue our mission to ensure more Marylanders can afford

to live here, buy a home, create wealth, and live a secure middle-class life.

Dan Cox/Rob Krop

Republican Party

Campaign Twitter:

[x.com/dancox4maryland](https://twitter.com/dancox4maryland)

Campaign Facebook:

[Facebook.com/dancoxforgovernor](https://www.facebook.com/dancoxforgovernor)

Campaign Email:

info@dancoxforgovernor.com

Campaign Website:

dancoxforgovernor.com

Campaign Phone: 410-254-7000

Campaign Instagram:

[instagram.com/dancox4maryland](https://www.instagram.com/dancox4maryland)

AFFORDABILITY:

Affordable housing, food and healthcare are civil rights. I will lower electric bills by opening new power plants including SMRs and ending the 30% RGGI tax causing outrageous electric costs, push for 100% tax credits for childcare, family leave and healthcare with portability, cut taxes and fees including car registrations, cap property tax assessments, and audit every agency to eliminate waste. I'll protect services, expand education and childcare, and stop shifting state costs onto counties.

VOTING: 1. make voting an excusable work activity by providing paid leave with dollar for dollar tax credits for excusing from work for voting. 2. activate the youth vote by engagement and encouragement that their government listens to them, and provides results they need. 3. lower barriers and lack of understanding by providing voting precinct information or election board referrals to help those who cannot find their voting poll. 4. publish repeated notices of voting dates and opportunity.

HEALTHCARE: 1. I will model Maryland after New Hampshire, which has the lowest premium and highest coverage rate, with a healthiest state rating, and highest number of rural healthcare facilities, nurses, PAs and physicians. 2. I will model the same system for our State's Cities, while supporting our greatest in the nation hospitals including Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Health System. 3. I will submit legislation to permit universal opt-in coverage at the same rate Maryland Legislators pay.

ECONOMY: I will slash fees and taxes, submitting a 4.9% income tax rate and business tax rate, down from combined 9.6% and 8.25% respectively, to match first in the nation job and economic growth. I will build the Key Bridge. I will expand opportunity for small business growth and investment, lower crime so that customers will go to downtown businesses, and make Maryland once again a major tourism destination for all seasons and interests. And I will reopen clean gas and electric plant job growth. **IMMIGRATION:** Reduce federal involvement by reopening communications between law enforcement agencies, eliminating raids and lack of cooperation, and focusing on removing violent criminals, gangs and cartels, like the MS13 cartel member who raped, strangled and murdered my client's daughter, Kayla Hamilton. We must work with law enforcement to prevent raids, enforce the constitutional warrant requirements, maintain peaceful, safe communities free from distrust and refusal to cooperate.

BACKGROUND: I am a lifelong Marylander, former State Delegate and am a 21-year civil rights attorney. I have successfully defended small businesses, employees, including minorities, various ethnicities and employees terminated from their jobs for being pregnant, for their medical status, or for their religion. I have 10 children with my wife Valerie of 30 years and have run our small businesses, including our natural farm. We have five grandchildren and believe in our beautiful Maryland and their future.

Andy Ellis/

Owen Silverman Andrews

Green Party

Campaign Website:

www.gogreen2026.com

Campaign Twitter: [@gogreen2026](https://twitter.com/gogreen2026)

Campaign Facebook:

www.facebook.com/GoGreen2026

Campaign Email:

andy@gogreen2026.com

Campaign Phone: 443-320-5296

Campaign Instagram:

www.instagram.com/gogreenmd

AFFORDABILITY: Fees are skyrocketing in Maryland. The regressive flat structure of these fees hurt working class Marylanders

most. They should be made progressive, so that someone registering a new luxury car pays more than someone registering a used car, for example. Our campaign also supports the creation of new public power utilities, which already operate successfully in Easton and Southern Maryland, to lower our bills by shielding us from power companies' voracious profit motive.

VOTING: We must protect existing voting rights and expand the electorate. More Marylanders will vote when more views are represented and the quality of our elections is improved. We call for a Maryland Model of Multiparty Democracy. It includes allowing independents to vote in party primaries, modernizing ballot access and expanding debate access for parties and candidates outside of the two party system, public financing for all races, and ranked choice voting and proportional representation.

HEALTHCARE: We should explore a single-payer model at the state level. We should also support the expansion of medical cooperatives so people can receive care outside of the exploitive insurance model. I also think we need to support and strengthen the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Lastly, we need big insurers and big hospital systems to work together instead of against each other to the detriment of patients and their loved ones.

ECONOMY: We need to tax the rich

and end corporate tax breaks! This would allow for increased tax credits for working class Marylanders. We also call for expanding the Community Repair and Reinvestment Fund, establishing a state-owned public bank, growing worker co-ops, and public ownership of pro sports teams. With 20 times more workers in co-ops they own, our economy would be more responsive to the needs of Marylanders, rather than Washington and Wall Street.

IMMIGRATION: Our campaign stands in solidarity with immigrant communities under attack by ICE. In Maryland, no government or law enforcement entities should collaborate with ICE, formally or informally. Immigrants should be safe at school, work, and in the community. The Green Party first called to abolish ICE in 2018, when that was considered radical. Now polls show more people support ending ICE than continuing it. Immigrants contribute greatly to our state and should find sanctuary here.

BACKGROUND: I am running for Governor as a Green Party candidate because I know the two party system is not working for most Marylanders and that we need alternatives to that system. We have travelled the state for the last four years and have listened to the voters from nearly every county. We know voters are tired of politicians who serve national narratives, big donors, and party leaders instead of the people of Maryland.

Cathy White/Cathy Permut

Working Class Party

Campaign Website:
sites.google.com/view/wcp-md
Campaign Email:
workingclasspartymd@gmail.com
Campaign Phone: 301-356-8120

AFFORDABILITY: Things aren't affordable because corporations make profit by not paying us enough and by charging high prices. I can bring attention to these problems. But workers will need to organize and fight to get the things we need, like higher wages, affordable health care and housing, and affordable and nutritious food. Working Class Party can play a role in this. Workers fought back in the past, and that is the only way we have ever gotten anything. We can not depend on politicians.

VOTING: Many workers do not vote, because the two parties have repeatedly betrayed our interests, and there is no one like them to vote for. Working Class Party gives workers a way to vote for someone who is also a worker, someone who is not a professional politician, someone who is not a billionaire representing their interests against ours.

HEALTHCARE: The problem with health care is that every aspect is for profit, from insurance to hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies. If hospitals aren't profitable, they are closed. Drugs are over-priced

to make huge profits. Health care should be a human right and not based on how much money you have.

ECONOMY: The two parties have completely screwed this up. We have to start with human needs. Every person able to work needs a job with a living wage. There is money available to do this -- in the profits that the rich got from our labor by not paying us the full value of our labor. For example, people who are now unemployed could be put to work fixing the crumbling roads and bridges that need to be repaired or replaced.

IMMIGRATION: I am opposed to the actions of ICE. Blaming immigrant workers for the problems we face is a way to distract us from who is really to blame -- the billionaires who make the decisions to pay workers poorly and not hire enough. It is a way to divide the working class, which weakens us. Other workers are not our enemy. Every single worker deserves the same legal rights.

BACKGROUND: The two big parties that have run this country for 170 years both represent and serve the billionaire class. The working class needs its own political party, its own representatives, to express our interests. I am a worker, 40 years in a factory, wages that don't keep up with inflation. Retirement even after 40 years seems like wishful thinking. I face the same problems of every worker.

COMPTROLLER

DUTIES: The Comptroller collects, manages, and plans for state revenues. This includes Maryland taxes on income (personal and corporate), retail sales, motor vehicle fuel, tobacco, alcohol, and estates. The Comptroller, Governor, and state Treasurer serve on the Board of Public Works, which approves major contracts for the purchase of goods and services by the state government.

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$175,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide

WEBSITE: marylandcomptroller.gov

The Issues

CONTRACTS: What factors will you use, in addition to cost, to evaluate major state contracts?

TAX POLICY: Please explain what legislation affecting tax policies

you will actively support for consideration in the legislature.

CHALLENGES: What are the major financial stressors that the state of Maryland will face in the coming term?

REVENUE: The Comptroller's Office issues revenue projections annually that are used to develop the budget. How do economic uncertainties affect your ability to ensure these projections are accurate?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Brooke Elizabeth Lierman

Democratic Party

Campaign Website:
brookelierman.com
Campaign Email:

jake@brookelierman.com

Campaign Facebook: [brookelierman-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/2IKrW7WTfLGInew0lvNmuNmMpriaDXhMsfl6PII0RZtaB1ab5lgE9B-4g2jBIWsNGajA5TIdQUy715EmCzHEO5ObVqPkICVDBgKPP](https://www.facebook.com/brookelierman-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/2IKrW7WTfLGInew0lvNmuNmMpriaDXhMsfl6PII0RZtaB1ab5lgE9B-4g2jBIWsNGajA5TIdQUy715EmCzHEO5ObVqPkICVDBgKPP)

Campaign Phone: 484-515-1787
Campaign Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/brookeelierman>

CONTRACTS: On the Board of Public Works, I ensure Maryland receives the best value - not just the lowest price - from every contract dollar. Beyond cost, I evaluate vendor track records, commitment to MBE goals, labor standards, local economic impact, and accountability mechanisms. I've also modernized contract spending reporting so Marylanders can see exactly how their money is being spent. Smart

procurement means stronger communities and a more equitable Maryland economy.

TAX POLICY: As Comptroller, I do not set tax policy - I administer tax laws equitably and make government work better for every Marylander. I've expanded branch offices, boosted call center staff, and launched new tools to ease filing. I've championed access to Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, supported small businesses, and returned a record \$121 million in unclaimed property in FY25. I'll keep fighting for free federal tax filing so every Marylander can access the money they've earned.

CHALLENGES: Maryland faces two major financial stressors: a rising cost of living pushing residents out of state, and the unprecedented threat to federal funding - including

CON'T ON 6

Comptroller, continued from 5

the loss of thousands of federal jobs, cuts to grants and contracts, and reduced Medicaid, SNAP, and disaster relief. My office now publishes state-of-the-economy reports to keep policymakers and the public informed. We must be clear-eyed about what reduced federal investment means so we can build a strong financial future together.

REVENUE: Economic uncertainty is the defining challenge of revenue forecasting and today's environment is among the most volatile we've seen. Tariffs, federal cuts, inflation, and market instability all hit Maryland revenues in unpredictable ways. As Chair of the Board of Revenue Estimates, I ensured we proactively adjusted projections in December 2024 leading to a year of stable finances, and our new tax system gives us real-time visibility to better understand our financial situation.

Sonya Dunn

Republican Party

Campaign Twitter:

<https://x.com/votesonyadunn>

Campaign Website:

www.VoteSonyaDunn.com

Campaign Email:

info@votesonyadunn.com

Campaign Facebook:

www.facebook.com/vote.sonyadunn/

Campaign Instagram:

www.instagram.com/votesonyadunn/

CONTRACTS: Primary factor: Is the company a Maryland-based firm? If not, what state resources or taxpayer support will it require to establish and maintain a presence in Maryland? Capacity building within Maryland is critical to strengthening and growing our procurement economy. State procurement dollars should support and circulate within Maryland whenever possible. Other factors include local workforce

impact, compliance history, accountability, efficiency, risk management, and community engagement.

TAX POLICY: FOR: HB 392 & HB 1554 - Short term revenue loss but helps retain manufacturing jobs and reduce food deserts in Maryland. FOR: HB 1422 & SB0858 - Adds teeth to compliance unit to address repeated failed audits by state agencies. Strengthen financial management oversight of budgets and contracts. AGAINST: 2025 BRFA (Tax Changes) - 2% capital gains tax on high earners and 3% tax on IT/data services discourages investment, limits capacity building, and accelerates wealth migration from Maryland.

CHALLENGES: Budget & Revenue Shortfalls: structural deficit, slow revenue growth, federal job losses, and high-income out-migration. Economic Competitiveness: business

out-migration, affordability, taxes, and inflation. Public Spending Cost: education costs, Medicaid, state pensions, and rural hospitals. Infrastructure Risks: transportation trust fund shortfalls, aging infrastructure (state buildings, water, sewer), energy transition costs, healthcare workforce, cybersecurity, and IT modernization.

REVENUE: I would be straightforward and transparent with taxpayers: Maryland is in a structural deficit. Rose-colored revenue projections create public distrust and lead to spending cuts to public and social programs. Maryland families, businesses, and communities deserve better. I plan to use conservative forecasting practices with a spectrum of investment risk profiles. Build a team of reliable economists and financial analysts who evaluate risks like the migration of businesses and taxpayers.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

TERM: Four years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$175,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected statewide.

WEBSITE: oag.maryland.gov

The Issues

CIVIL RIGHTS: What do you see as the greatest threat to Marylanders' civil rights, and what will you do to protect them?

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Do you support initiatives, such as restorative justice practices, to reduce incarcerations and create better outcomes in the juvenile justice system?

PRIORITIES: As Attorney General, what will be your top priority areas, and how will you implement those priorities?

DISINFORMATION: Will you use the Attorney General's office to protect consumers from disinformation and fraud, including

false advertising and scams? If so, how? If not, why not?

ADVOCACY: On what issues, if any, will you support bringing actions against the federal government on behalf of Marylanders?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Anthony G. Brown

Democratic Party

Campaign Email:

info@anthonybrown.com

CIVIL RIGHTS: The greatest threat to civil rights is the erosion of equal protection, voting rights, reproductive freedom, and protections against discrimination. I will continue using the Attorney General's office to defend constitutional rights, enforce civil rights laws, protect vulnerable communities, and challenge unlawful actions that harm Marylanders.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Yes. I support evidence-based approaches, including restorative justice and diversion programs, that improve outcomes for young people while protecting public safety. We must reduce recidivism, expand mental health and reentry support, and invest in prevention and rehabilitation alongside accountability.

PRIORITIES: My top priorities are protecting consumers, improving public safety, defending civil rights, safeguarding the environment, and holding powerful interests accountable. I will continue strengthening partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, aggressively enforcing the law, and ensuring the Attorney General's office remains responsive to Marylanders.

DISINFORMATION: Yes. The Attorney General's office should aggressively combat scams, fraud, deceptive advertising, and schemes that exploit consumers, especially seniors and vulnerable communities. We will continue using enforcement actions, public education, partnerships with law enforcement, and consumer alerts to protect Marylanders from financial harm and deception.

ADVOCACY: I will continue taking action against unlawful federal policies that harm Marylanders, threaten constitutional rights, undermine consumer protections, weaken environmental safeguards, or jeopardize public safety and healthcare. My responsibility is to defend Maryland residents and uphold the rule of law, regardless of politics.

James B. Rutledge, III

Republican Party

Campaign Website:

www.electjim.com

Campaign Email: jim@jimrutledge.me

Campaign Phone: 410-404-5833

CIVIL RIGHTS: The greatest threat to Marylanders' civil rights is the erosion of equal protection under the law — when government plays favorites, enforces laws selectively, or uses legal power as a political weapon. I will enforce civil rights protections evenhandedly, without ideology. Every Marylander, regardless of background, politics, or zip code, deserves equal justice. I am committed to uphold the MD Constitution and apply the law without partiality or prejudice as the AG's oath of office requires.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: As AG, I will focus on victim-centered justice and public safety. I support approaches that hold young offenders accountable, change the direction of their lives, protect victims, and reduce recidivism. Restorative justice can complement — but not replace — accountability. I will work with prosecutors, juvenile case workers, and community leaders to identify solutions that can actually reduce juvenile crime and create hope for

our young people, who are often victims of abuse themselves.

PRIORITIES: 1) Fighting crime by supporting our State's Attorneys and law enforcement and by putting the rule of law ahead of partisan politics; 2) Thwart cyber predators by pushing cyber-crime investigations to the next level, and 3) Protect clean water and our Chesapeake Bay by investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes that harm

them. I will promote the Maryland Constitution without partiality or prejudice to build confidence in our institution of law for all Marylanders, not just a favored few.

DISINFORMATION: Absolutely. Protecting Marylanders from consumer fraud, scams, and deceptive business practices is a core responsibility of the AG. I will aggressively seek to hold these predators accountable. What I will

not do is use the office to punish political speech or label a political viewpoint as 'disinformation' — that path leads to censorship, which I condemn. The AG does not have the power to declare whose political opinions are acceptable. That decision is made by the voters of Maryland.

ADVOCACY: The AG should defend the people of MD when the federal government exceeds the authority

granted to it by the US Constitution. The MD Constitution declares that federal laws are the Supreme Law of the State and "all the People of this State, are, and shall be bound thereby." It is a grave matter for MD to resist federal authority and sue to nullify federal law. I will make my decisions based on the facts and the law, and my allegiance to the MD Constitution, not to partisan politics.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6

DUTIES: U.S. Representatives make laws, oversee the operations of all federal government departments and investigate issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Through impeachment, the House of Representatives can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

TERM: Two years. No term limit.

SALARY: \$174,000

HOW ELECTED: Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland is represented by eight of the 435 Representatives.

WEBSITE: www.house.gov

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

The Issues

ELECTIONS: What laws will you support to protect election integrity and secure accurate vote counts?

IMMIGRATION: Do you support current approaches to enforcing federal immigration laws? Why or why not?

AFFORDABILITY: Many Marylanders are struggling to afford basic expenses such as housing, groceries, childcare, and healthcare. What will you do to make living in the United States more affordable?

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: What do you see as the United States' role on the world stage?

SAFETY NET: How will you safeguard social safety net programs for the most vulnerable Marylanders?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

April McClain Delaney Democratic Party

Campaign Twitter:
twitter.com/April4Congress

Campaign Website:
april4congress.com

Campaign Email:
april@april4congress.com

Campaign Facebook:
www.facebook.com/AprilMcClainDelaney

Campaign Phone: 301-266-5677

Campaign Instagram:
[@amcclaindelaney](https://www.instagram.com/amcclaindelaney)

ELECTIONS: I will protect free and fair elections by defending access to the ballot while ensuring accurate counts. I opposed the SAVE Act because it would make it harder for eligible Americans to vote. I support strengthening the Voting Rights Act, expanding early and mail voting, improving election security, and providing resources to states to ensure safe, secure, and reliable elections.

IMMIGRATION: I do not support current immigration enforcement practices. I introduced the Keep ICE Out of Washington County Act to block a proposed ICE detention center in Hagerstown, and I'm glad construction has been halted while legal challenges move forward. I have never voted to fund ICE—not even a penny. We need a humane system that protects due process and keeps families together, not the lawless approach we're seeing from the current administration.

AFFORDABILITY: I'm focused on lowering costs and expanding opportunity for working families. My Costs Down, Opportunity Up agenda cracks down on price gouging and junk fees, lowers health care and prescription drug costs, and tackles the housing shortage by building more homes. I'll expand the Child Tax Credit and invest in childcare and

paid leave, while lowering energy and grocery costs and ensuring big corporations pay their fair share.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: I believe the United States should lead with strength, diplomacy, and respect for the rule of law. I oppose warmongering, including the illegal strike on Venezuela, which I said was unconstitutional and serious enough to warrant impeachment. I have also raised concerns about unauthorized military action in Iran. America's role is to work with allies, defend democracy, and ensure Congress, not the President alone, decides matters of war and peace.

SAFETY NET: I will protect and strengthen the social safety net so no Marylander is left behind. I strongly opposed H.R. 1, which cut Medicaid and SNAP through harmful redeterminations to fund tax breaks for billionaires, and I led amendments to stop it. Through my Costs Down, Opportunity Up agenda, I will lower health care and food costs, expand access to essential programs, and work to repeal these harmful provisions and restore fairness and humanity to our safety net.

Robin Ficker Republican Party

Campaign Twitter: [@robin_ficker](https://twitter.com/robin_ficker)

Campaign Website:
www.vote4ficker.com

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ELECTIONS: Mandatory voter ID same as required for driving, boarding an airplane, bank transactions, renting a hotel room, food stamps, welfare,

unemployment, social security, for school, getting married, joining the military, or library books. Require US Citizenship to register to vote, unlike Frederick City which recently allowed non-citizens to vote in city elections. Disallow interference with voters within 100 feet of polls. Must be 18 to vote. Ensure integrity of voter machines and counting.

IMMIGRATION: U.S. allows 1 million vetted legal immigrants/year, more than any country. Keep borders secured to stop illegal immigration. The prior administration's 300,000 illegal immigrants/month, human trafficking, and fentanyl and cocaine transportation non-enforcement were outrageous. My Democratic opponent's approach of refusing to fund any immigration enforcement is not acceptable.

AFFORDABILITY: I successfully collected 18,000 signatures each to place charter amendments to limit property tax increases and to term limit elected tax-increase specialists. Both passed voter scrutiny despite unanimous opposition from elected Democrats. I'll oppose tax increases and endorse a balanced budget. Protect Social Security and Medicare. Never vote to close the federal government as my opponent has done repeatedly. We have 35,000 federal employees and 35,000 government contractors in MD6.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: China is our greatest adversary. Maintaining stable relations is paramount. We must lead in the AI race and protect Taiwan which currently produces 90% of the world's most advanced computer chips, which are used in cars, smartphones, medical devices, computers, missile systems, and fighter jets. A Monroe doctrine-like protection is essential for the Americas. Wariness of today's Stalin—Putin—is important. Be friendly to Canada, Mexico, and

Representative in Congress District 6, continued from 7

Israel. Develop US nuclear, rare minerals, energy.

SAFETY NET: Protect Social Security and Medicare. Oppose property and sales tax increases. Oppose deficit spending which drives up inflation, the cruelest tax of all. Emphasize a family-friendly tax code. Provide excellent constituent services with same-day responses. Set up numerous personal appts with those in need in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery counties. Answer the phone with a real, live person. Support education and reading programs, enabling children to be rising stars.

Moshe Y. Landman

Green Party

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ELECTIONS: To protect election integrity and secure accurate vote counts, I support federal legislation mandating paper ballot records and transparent, mandatory post-election audits. I back establishing independent redistricting commissions nationwide to eliminate partisan gerrymandering and ensure fair electoral representation. My platform advocates for comprehensive campaign finance reform to remove corporate money from political campaigns and restore voter accountability. Additionally, I favor adopting

IMMIGRATION: I do not support current approaches to federal immigration law enforcement because they rely on punitive measures like family separations, militarized borders, and immigration raids that terrorize immigrant

communities. These aggressive enforcement tactics leave millions of undocumented residents vulnerable to severe workplace exploitation, abuse, and family disruption. Instead, I advocate for a complete overhaul of our immigration system to establish human rights, social justice, and dignity at

AFFORDABILITY: To make living in the United States more affordable, I advocate for implementing a single-payer universal healthcare system that will save over 100,000 lives and \$500 billion annually while eliminating costly medical bills for families. I support ending homelessness in America by guaranteeing federal housing support and expanding affordable residential development. My platform prioritizes achieving 100% employment through Green New Deal job creation and fair-wage guarantees so working families c

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

To support peace, global stability, and human rights, I advocate for

shifting United States foreign policy away from military intervention and toward diplomatic engagement. I support ending military aid to countries that violate international law and human rights, redirecting those resources toward global humanitarian efforts and sustainable development. My platform prioritizes international cooperation to address climate change, promote global disarmament, and support self-determination for all

SAFETY NET: To safeguard social safety net programs for the most vulnerable Marylanders, I advocate for fully funding and expanding essential public services, including healthcare, housing assistance, and nutritional support. I support lifting income caps on payroll taxes so that high earners pay their fair share to guarantee the long-term solvency of Social Security and Medicare. My platform rejects any cuts, privatization, or restrictive work requirements that restrict access to vital assistance for famil

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 2

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$56,636

HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Eric Martin Van Buren

Democratic Party

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Campaign Phone: 240-469-8616

Campaign Instagram:

vanburen_statesenate

DATA CENTERS: As a State Senate candidate, I oppose data centers

unless they meet strict, people-first standards. Our review shows they bring short-term construction jobs but few lasting ones. At a time when AI threatens 6,000 local jobs—something my opponent hasn't addressed—I'm focused on protecting workers. Any project must pass required environmental review, avoid burdening our grid and water, and deliver real, long-term benefits. If not, I won't support it.

UTILITY COSTS: In Washington County, utility costs aren't theoretical—they're crushing families. My own combined heating and electric bills are nearing \$1,000/month, and many residents near poverty can't afford one more cent. It's unacceptable that none of my opponent's legislation addresses this crisis. I've already partnered with an IT team to lower costs without new laws, and I will roll out solutions in April—because this is about survival, safety, and quality of life. This is a priority for my campaign.

TRANSPORTATION:

Yes. Counties like Allegany, Garrett, Somerset, Dorchester, and Washington lack reliable transit—Washington County won't stay on that list. Our transit budget is only a few million. Expanding service

would cost ~\$5–10M/year. I would fund this by redirecting underused transportation funds, securing federal rural transit grants, and requiring large developments to contribute—because lack of transit is an attack on the disabled, low-income, and working families, and we will solve it.

BUDGET: Maryland's budget is ~\$60B, and Washington County should see over \$1.5B in impact. My priorities are: (1) workforce transition through dual enrollment and retraining at HCC and programs like the ARC of Washington County, (2) lowering utility and living costs, and (3) entrepreneurship and transit that connect people to jobs and help small business grow.. The reality is, bringing tens of millions more back to Washington County to fund this will require new representation that can deliver results

IMMIGRATION: As a returning citizen, I've seen systems turn on people—I've seen this before. I believe immigrant communities are necessary for the growth and sustainability of Washington County, bringing cultural strength, new perspectives, and real economic contribution. Lawful pathways to citizenship must be respected and

The Issues

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will

accessible. That's my lens. The reality is, bringing resources to support strong, stable communities like this

requires leadership that can deliver results in Annapolis—and I will.

Paul D. Corderman

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.
TERM: Four years, no term limit
SALARY: \$56,636
HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.
WEBSITE:
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

The Issues

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?
UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?
TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?
BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Karen Lewis Young

Democratic Party

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DATA CENTERS: I support data centers if they are developed responsibly. We must ensure an adequate energy supply that is not subsidized by ratepayers. We need to understand the environmental impacts (air, water, and noise). We need to ensure that their investment in the community exceeds their tax breaks. Finally, there should be strict guidelines regarding site location.
UTILITY COSTS: Poorly managed PJM that has failed to plan adequately, record profits from electricity providers, excessive demand from data centers. I am supporting the Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families Act (RELIEF).
TRANSPORTATION: Yes, we need greater investments in public transit as well as greater investments to repair our roads and bridges.
BUDGET: Expansion of Frederick Health Hospital bed capacity Family Connects Funding (home visits by a nurse 3 months after delivery) Funding for support services for

individuals with disabilities
IMMIGRATION: I was a co-sponsor of the bill to eliminate the 287(g) program. Immigrants are a vital part of our economy and the vast majority are hard-working individuals who should have their rights protected.

Shelley Aloï

Republican Party

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DATA CENTERS: I will ONLY support the establishment of data centers IF they are developed with strict adherence to local zoning and environmental protections. While they offer significant tax revenue, we cannot sacrifice the stability of our power grid or our water security. I will fight to ensure that data center developers—not County taxpayers—foot the bill for any necessary infrastructure upgrades and that these facilities are located in industrial corridors, protecting our Rural Legacy areas.
UTILITY COSTS: Maryland's utility costs are skyrocketing due to over-regulation and an aggressive, top-down move to unproven energy mandates. The "all-electric" push is straining the grid and forcing families to pay more for less reliability. We must increase in-state power generation from all sources – including natural gas and nuclear – to lower rates. I will fight to review and reduce hidden "environmental surcharges" on monthly bills, and protect consumer choice in heating homes and powering businesses.

TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation must be efficient and fiscally responsible. While transit is vital for some, we need a balanced approach that respects taxpayers and improves safety on existing roads. As such, I support improving public transportation but oppose mandates that divert critical highway funds to underutilized transit projects. I will also fight to ensure that the Transportation Trust Fund is used for its intended purpose—infrastructure—rather than being diverted to balance the general fund.
BUDGET: My priorities are: (1) Address the \$1.5 billion deficit WITHOUT RAISING TAXES. (2) Fully fund law enforcement and ensure they have resources needed to keep our communities safe. (3) Focus on economic competitiveness, cut wasteful spending, reduce corporate tax rate to keep jobs in MD, and eliminate retirement tax. I will fight for programs that lower the cost of living for young families, ALICE households, and seniors on a fixed income so we become an affordable place to live, work, and retire.
IMMIGRATION: My grandfather, who was an immigrant, told me about American values like hard work, following the rule of law, and assimilating to become a valued part of the community. For those who enrich our culture and workforce, I will prioritize workforce development and vocational training programs, support policies that help small-businesses so that the American Dream is accessible, and focus on fostering a robust economy where immigrants and natural-born citizens alike have the opportunity to succeed.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 4

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.
TERM: Four years, no term limit
SALARY: \$56,636
HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE:
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

The Issues

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative

impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?
UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

State Senator Dist 4, continued from 9

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Lara Westdorp

Democratic Party

Campaign Website:

www.Westdorp4Senate.com

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Campaign Email:

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DATA CENTERS: I signed the Data Center referendum and I support the legislation that requires a statewide

study of the costs and benefits of data centers. Why? Because we need to better understand the full costs that data centers will have on our natural resources, public safety, public health, along with its impact on local taxes, energy bills, new fire equipment, training first responders, pollution monitoring, and road repairs and maintenance before we consider expanding data centers in the state.

UTILITY COSTS: Contributors to increased utility costs are data center construction, outdated electrical grids, loss of funding for alternative energy sources, and federal tariffs affecting the price of gas, oil, and electricity. We can reduce energy costs by streamlining the upgrades to existing transmission infrastructure, use advanced transmission technologies and existing rights-of-way, and support local energy solutions, including solar and energy storage.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes, we should be investing in public transportation by improving existing and building new infrastructure, and increasing the availability of trains, buses, and metro. I would also encourage greater access to the rural areas of Maryland, allowing for greater flexibility in workforce mobility and local economic development.

BUDGET: Budget Priorities; 1. Lower state taxes for everyday

people. Maryland needs to find more diverse revenue options and require everyone to pay their fair share - especially corporations. 2. Livable wages for state employees and teachers. 3. Secure healthcare for all state residents. Program will fight for: 1. State bonds for district 4 capital projects 2. Land and rural preservation programs 3. Lower energy costs 4. Equality under the law for everyone 5. School funding options.

IMMIGRATION: Right now our immigration laws are not being applied in an equal, fair, or moral way, and ICE, specifically, acts like they are above the law. This needs to stop. All law enforcement personnel need to abide by the law, identify themselves, state why they are arresting someone, and provide Miranda rights. Above all, stop violating our laws by arresting people based on skin color, accent, food they are eating, or where they live. No government agency gets to choose who has Constitutional rights

William "Bill" Folden

Republican Party

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Senatorfolden.com

Campaign Facebook:

www.facebook.com/share/1Am3iLRcyP/

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Senator.folden@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 240-674-7512

DATA CENTERS: I have been a vocal proponent of ensuring smart growth in Frederick County. We have not yet learned the full scale impacts of data centers and I have taken the stance to freeze any new data centers in the overlay until we learn the full impacts to our community. I would also like to see a "lockbox" established by County Executive to ensure that a set percentage of tax revenues towards Frederick County School construction, as we have many schools in need of repair or replacement.

UTILITY COSTS: Unfortunately, Maryland's move from coal fire energy plants and mandated closures by 2027, without having an adequate and sufficient replacement, has added significant strain to our grid and energy costs. We must take action now to move towards clean natural gas conversions for these old coal fire plants to create new energy opportunities and less strain on our grid, but even that is a 2-3 year project as Marylander's continue to grapple with these rising costs.

TRANSPORTATION: No response received by deadline.

BUDGET: No response received by deadline.

IMMIGRATION: No response received by deadline.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 5

The Issues

DUTIES: Maryland State Senators enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments. The Senate confirms the Governor's appointment of judges and the heads of certain government agencies.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$56,636

HOW ELECTED: Senators are elected district wide. The state has 47 election districts. Each district is represented by one senator.

WEBSITE:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some important economic benefits, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Gary Foote

Democratic Party

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Campaign Phone: 410-790-2733

DATA CENTERS: Data Centers are necessary for American national security. They generate jobs and taxpayer revenue. Having said that, it is essential that companies constructing data centers bring their

own systems for generating power and provide water for cooling. This makes construction of additional data centers in Maryland impractical in many cases.

UTILITY COSTS: Data centers are part of the reason for increased costs. Part of the problem also is a delay in connecting new energy projects to the grid. We should realize that it is now cheaper to produce new clean energy than it is to start a new fossil fuel plant. And once clean energy projects are online, there are no fuel costs to worry about. There are costs associated with the transition to a clean future. Very clearly these costs should not all be borne by rate payers.

TRANSPORTATION: There should be interconnected transport systems throughout Maryland, and these systems should allow for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people without a car

to get to where they need to go. Let's make towns and cities more efficient and productive and do what we can to eliminate traffic jams and frustrated travelers. Most commuters agree that the commute is the worst part of their day. Let's fix that.

BUDGET: My top priorities are health, education, and the environment. We no longer have to choose between economic growth and environmental preservation. I will fight for any program that allows for sustainability, where we are able to meet the needs of the present without compromising the survival of future generations. Maryland needs to adopt programs that improve life expectancy and life quality. Let's translate economic growth into what we really care about.

IMMIGRATION: There has been much talk concerning a moratorium on data centers. How about a moratorium on ICE facilities? I will support solutions that allow hard-working immigrants to stay in their communities and get documentation necessary for them to continue to

perform critical jobs. We can be safe, welcoming and continue to grow economically. Immigrants are an essential part of any plan to make that happen.

Justin Ready

Republican Party

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Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorReady/
Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/justinready/

DATA CENTERS: Data centers have become a necessary evil due to rising demand for data, storage and new advancements in technology that everyone is using. However, before any more come to Maryland, we must have a plan for the energy and environmental protection needs. Maryland already has an energy production issue, currently importing over 40%. Additional data centers must come with regulations requiring them to generate their own energy

instead of plugging into the rest of the grid.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland must invest in renewable long-term energy solutions such as nuclear and natural gas. For many years, Democrats in Annapolis have doubled down on failed energy policies – overreliance on solar and wind, plus expensive mandates on utilities to meet unrealistic 'green-energy' goals, which have made our state one of the most expensive for utilities. Also, stopping or at least pausing ratepayer funded programs that show up on your bill could save at least \$40 for ratepayers right away.

TRANSPORTATION: All the money generated from our extremely high gas tax, vehicle registration fees, emission fees and titling fees goes into the Transportation Trust Fund for roads and bridges, but also mass transit. Mass transit currently recovers less than 10% of its costs at the farebox – it used to be required to recoup at least 35%. That has forced the TTF to subsidize over 50% on mass transit. Given the current fiscal crisis, I can't support expanded

transit beyond the inefficient system we have now.

BUDGET: My budget priorities include advocating for fairness in local government and community college funding, opposing cuts to our developmentally disabled community, and reducing the size and spending of Maryland's government overall. We must scale back a lot of other items to prioritize what is most important, but putting the burden on working families by raising taxes and fees is unacceptable in my opinion.

IMMIGRATION: We are a nation that embraces people from all over the world. Anyone who wants to become an American and embrace our values is welcome to me. Illegal immigration subverts the process of legal immigration. I support enforcing our immigration laws compassionately, fairly but firmly. When someone is here illegally and commits additional crimes, I support local law enforcement's ability to cooperate with federal law enforcement to arrest and deport them as quickly as possible.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT 2A

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 2

John D. Leonard

Democratic Party

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DATA CENTERS: No data centers; they waste land and energy and don't create jobs. The internet is global - there's no reason all these data centers can't be built way out in the empty brushlands where they won't harm areas where people live and work

UTILITY COSTS: Increasing demand for existing utility resources due to population growth, data centers, and escalating severe weather impacts. Utility price gouging is also a factor - the State needs to work to prevent this. We also need to grow (green) energy production, prevent data centers from sucking up our resources, and promote commercial & consumer products (heating/cooling) that are more energy-efficient.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Good public transportation is faster, cheaper, safer, and more energy-efficient than everybody sitting in stop-&-go traffic twice a day.

BUDGET: 1) Offset the unnecessary tax cuts for billionaires and corporations from the Federal BBB, at the State level. 2) Privatization and subcontracting for State services has been growing for decades - many of these companies are gouging or outright swindling us. Get them in line, or kick them to the curb. 3) In tough budget situations, ironically it is usually the smallest programs that face the harshest cuts; I will fight for our parks, our public health services, and our community services.

IMMIGRATION: I will seek to oppose, hinder, and disrupt any ICE

facility construction in this state, using any and all possible legal mechanisms available to the State. I will seek to ensure that any actions taken by Federal immigration agents within these borders are done so in strict accordance to our legal and human rights as defined by State law, and that violations of these State laws result in the swift arrest and prosecution of any criminals who commit them.

Brandon Thompson

Democratic Party

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Campaign Instagram: @bt4md

DATA CENTERS: No. Data centers strain the power grid, consume enormous amounts of water, and deliver few local jobs relative to their footprint. Maryland should require a state permitting process that evaluates grid impact, water use, and community effects before any new facility is approved. Being "innovation-friendly" shouldn't mean

The Issues

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation

House of Delegates Dist 2A, continued from 11

handing an industry a blank check at ratepayers' expense.

UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs come from aging infrastructure, insufficient grid investment, and energy market volatility - made worse by the explosive growth of high-demand facilities like data centers driving up load. I'll support energy efficiency programs like EmPOWER, push for transparent rate-setting, and oppose cost-shifting onto residential ratepayers from commercial and industrial users who aren't paying their fair share.

TRANSPORTATION:

Yes. Washington County residents drive long distances because alternatives don't exist yet. That's a policy failure, not a geographic inevitability. I support MARC expansion, demand-responsive rural transit, and bike/pedestrian infrastructure in communities like Hagerstown that have been deprioritized for decades. Car dependency is expensive - for families and for the state.

BUDGET: My three priorities: fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future without raiding dedicated education funds; protect Program Open Space and environmental special funds from General Fund raids; and invest in rural healthcare infrastructure and workforce. I'll oppose budget solutions that balance the books by cutting services working families in Washington and Frederick Counties depend on.

IMMIGRATION: I've seen firsthand what immigration enforcement looks like in Washington County - I helped break the story of a converted warehouse being used as an ICE detention facility in Williamsport. I'll support state legislation protecting due process rights, oppose 287(g) programs that turn local police into immigration agents, and fight for immigrant communities' access to services

William Valentine

Republican Party

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valentine4delegate@gmail.com

DATA CENTERS: I recognize both the economic benefits and environmental impacts associated with the growth of data centers in Maryland. Data centers can create jobs and generate revenue for local governments. This revenue is often used for schools, roads and public safety. I will not support additional data centers unless, prior to construction, adequate energy and water supplies are in place and their establishment does not negatively impact agricultural land, natural resources or residential areas.

UTILITY COSTS: Rising utility costs in Maryland are driven by several factors, including renewable energy mandates, restrictive regulations and the closure of multiple power-generation plants prior to reliable alternatives being put into place. I support halting these mandates, focusing on creating or refitting power plants and decreasing Maryland's continued reliance on the importation of energy.

TRANSPORTATION: There is room for improvement in the availability of public transportation, and it remains a high priority for many Marylanders. However, these improvements should not come at the expense of rural counties who rely on transportation funds, derived from vehicle registration fees and fuel tax, for bridge replacements and highway improvements to ease traffic congestion and promote safe roadways in their communities.

BUDGET: I believe in fiscal restraint and strong oversight. My priority is no new tax or fee increases. This will foster economic and small business

growth. Funding for much needed highway improvement projects such as I-81 and Rt.15 are at the top of my budget priorities. The developmental disability community continues to be one of my budget priorities as well, this program focuses on some of our state's most vulnerable individuals.

IMMIGRATION: I have worked with the business community and federal officials to ensure temporary foreign labor (H2A) employees are able to continue to work in Maryland legally. I support local law enforcement and their partnership with federal immigration officials when conducting investigations that focus on removing criminal offenders who are in this country illegally and who victimize our immigrant communities.

William J. Wivell

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DATA CENTERS: The question of data centers is more of one involving economic development preparedness and not whether government supports the establishment of one industry over another. That is a socialist viewpoint. The role of government is to ensure that infrastructure is available to support industry. Data centers can bring their own electricity generation to the table. MD policies need to allow it. Land use policies and water supply are a local decision.

UTILITY COSTS: Escalating utility costs is a simple matter of supply & demand. MD is a net importer of 40% of its electricity. This legislative session, I introduced a bill to retrofit closed fossil fuel plants in the State with natural gas until such time that

small nuclear reactor technology can be deployed. In addition to increasing supply, MD can also reduce taxes on electricity bills — eliminate the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative & other surcharges, excise, and ad valorem taxes on utility bills.

TRANSPORTATION:

An imbalance exists between the source of revenues and expenditures. The majority of Transportation Trust Fund revenues are collected from gasoline taxes while the majority of expenditures go toward mass transit. If public transportation is to be improved, it needs to pay its own way. Minimum farebox recoveries need to be restored and fare collections need to be enforced. Rural counties bear an unfair burden of the gasoline tax as they generally drive more miles to reach their destinations.

BUDGET: MD is currently on a fiscal cliff - facing a \$3.5 billion structural deficit next fiscal year. Budgets are balanced by raiding special funds (a 1x source of revenue), excessive borrowing, and passing obligations onto local governments. The spending is not sustainable. It is necessary to 1. Reduce spending levels; 2. Restore pay-go funds for capital projects; 3. Reduce borrowing levels from the current level of \$1.8 billion annually; 4. Cease passing unfunded mandates onto local govts.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration & the rule of law. I do not support individuals entering the Country illegally. My wife and I waited 2 1/2 years for the legal immigration process to work. How fair is it for someone to enter the country illegally and move to the front of the line? In addition, I signed an affidavit that she would not be a burden on the federal government for 10 years. All immigrants should be held to the same standard & supported/educated to be productive members of society.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT 3

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

The Issues

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year.

What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?
IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 3

Kris Fair

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DATA CENTERS: Water usage, grid strain, and diesel generator emissions are serious concerns Maryland must confront. Communities deserve meaningful input, clean energy commitments, and enforceable standards. Yet we cannot protect cybersecurity, grow modern industries, or sustain our digital lives without data centers. The question isn't whether they come; they are already here. It's whether Maryland shapes this reality consciously, forcing operators to

invest in our grid, environment, workforce, and community.
UTILITY COSTS: The biggest driver of your utility bill is reckless federal energy policy, blocking Maryland's grid from diversifying into clean sources while forcing oil- and coal-based solutions with declining returns. Maryland acted this year, passing multiple bills to lower energy costs for every family. But we cannot stop there. I'll keep pushing energy companies to provide real relief to ratepayers, while we invest in the generation and transmission infrastructure needed to address the root causes.
TRANSPORTATION: Yes. We cannot build our way out of traffic, meaning no highway expansion is large enough to solve Maryland's transportation challenges. The answer is public transportation that is affordable, accessible, and reliable, taking cars off the road while expanding job access, connecting families to necessities, and improving quality of life across the state. This has been a priority of mine for the last four years, and I look forward to carrying that work forward into my next term.
BUDGET: My top three: First, defending Maryland's historic investment in public education through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Our children's success is our state's financial future and the single most important investment we make. Second, partnering strategically with the private sector to build a

stronger, more diverse workplaces and workforces. Third, renewed and sustained investment in local and regional transportation systems for the reasons I outlined above.
IMMIGRATION: I was proud to help lead the repeal of Maryland's 287(g) program. We must keep pushing back against federal efforts to dehumanize and harm our immigrant neighbors, while partnering with law enforcement on data-driven, proven techniques that address crime in every community, regardless of immigration status. And our budget must reflect our values: investing in immigrant support programs and creating new pathways to education, employment, healthcare, and housing.

Ken Kerr

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DATA CENTERS: I support a cautious approach to data centers preferring self supported data centers that make maximum use of solar and on-site storage that only accessing the grid between midnight and 5:00 am when demand is low.
UTILITY COSTS: Over-reliance on

out-of-state providers. We need to maximize renewable sources in the short term and expand our nuclear capacity in the long term.
TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation needs to be appropriate for the population density of the area it serves. In Frederick, busses are most effective. However, our area would greatly benefit from increased MARC availability including midday and weekend service.
BUDGET: Healthcare, school funding, and transportation
IMMIGRATION: I have supported access to Medicaid for pregnant mothers, the ability for immigrants to purchase health insurance (with no subsidies) regardless of immigration status. I have also supported language programs teaching or practicing English with newcomers, and have advocated for policies that promote inclusivity and protect immigrant rights.

Karen Simpson

Democratic Party

No response received by deadline.

Angela McIntosh

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT 4

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.
TERM: Four years, no term limit
SALARY: \$55,636
HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.
WEBSITE: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

The Issues

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?
UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?
TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?
BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 3

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DATA CENTERS: I voted AGAINST the expansion of the data centers in Frederick County. I have many environmental concerns. Economically it does someone no good if the data centers relieve taxpayers of some tax burden but then the taxpayers have a much higher electric bills. I am not in favor of expanding this in Maryland.
UTILITY COSTS: The escalation of electricity costs across the country is being driven by the electricity demands of data centers. We either have to generate more clean electricity or reduce demand.
TRANSPORTATION: In Frederick County we have gone to a free ride system and it has been a great success. It has increased ridership and helped workers who cannot drive. Improved transportation benefits all of us.

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BUDGET: Education Transportation Parks and libraries
IMMIGRATION: Help them educate their children and help the adults acquire the language skills necessary to succeed in America.

Andrew Duck

Democratic Party

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DATA CENTERS: I oppose the expansion of the data center complex in Adamstown. I encourage voters to overturn that expansion at the ballot box. The County Council decision overruled previous land use decisions, the recommendation of the Planning Board and of numerous community groups. I will not oppose every data center anywhere, but public officials need to consider the risks to the community over the life of a planned facility. For more details see: <https://youtu.be/kCpDuAAdhE8?si=ToNt6sbOpxdzpxms>
UTILITY COSTS:

Electricity costs are rising due to Artificial Intelligence data centers. The federal government has cut investments in clean energy research, increasing costs. The cost of fuel, for cars or heating oil, has increased rapidly due to the war of choice in the Middle East. Telephone and cable media utilities have merged driving up costs for consumers. We must ensure anti-trust laws are enforced, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and plan for adequate utilities before additional building.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. We should increase MARC service to Frederick County and add routes to the County Transit service to Middletown. I oppose HOT lanes on I-270 – we should have two reversible HOV lanes without tolls. I support the Purple line to reduce road traffic near DC, allowing Frederick County residents to commute more efficiently. We should emphasize safety for both employees and passengers on the Metro while providing a reliable funding source.

BUDGET: Top 3 - Fund education in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, establish Maryland MEDICARE For All program, and fund the

Developmental Disabilities Agency. I will also fight for funding for roads, sewer systems, and infrastructure for District 4; and address the rapid growth of our student population. To fund the budget, we must close the loopholes created at the Federal level last year. I support an Alternative Minimum Tax for people earning over \$400,000 to limit use of loopholes.

IMMIGRATION: I oppose the 287g program. Maryland should welcome immigrants into our community. Anti-immigrant efforts are trying to tear our communities apart. I believe America is like a tapestry, rather than a melting pot. Different colors are woven together to create a beautiful picture. If you try to tear a well-made tapestry, it just pulls the threads together more tightly but does not rip the fabric. American values of community and respect for our neighbors will survive our current troubles.

Alleria Stanley

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DATA CENTERS: I support data centers only if they include ironclad protections for our grid and environment. We cannot allow District 4 residents to subsidize corporate energy costs or risk our water supply. I back a moratorium until the state's 2026 impact study is complete. New projects must be co-located with dedicated power sources and pay their fair share for infrastructure. Economic growth is vital, but it must be sustainable and never come at the expense of our community's literal power and water.

UTILITY COSTS: Costs are rising due to a supply-demand mismatch, aging infrastructure, and spikes in regional capacity prices. I will fight to ensure large-load users like data centers pay their fair share so families don't subsidize corporate growth. I support the "Lower Bills and Local Power Act" to modernize our grid with cost-saving technology and eliminate unnecessary utility profit incentives. We must prioritize transparency in rate cases and expand local energy to lower long-term costs.

TRANSPORTATION: Yes. Expanding public transit is essential for District 4's economy and environment. We must transform the MARC Brunswick Line into a true regional rail with all-day, weekend service to connect our workforce to hubs like DC and Frederick. I support transit-oriented development that creates walkable, affordable communities near stations. Improving transit reduces congestion on our highways, lowers emissions, and ensures that opportunity is accessible to all, regardless of car ownership.

BUDGET: My top priorities are: 1) Fully funding the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future" to ensure world-class education for every child. 2) Investing in the MARC Growth Plan to expand all-day, weekend rail service, vital for District 4's economy. 3) Protecting healthcare access for the 175,000 Marylanders at risk from federal Medicaid cuts. I will fight for programs that prioritize ratepayer fairness and social equity, ensuring our balanced budget never comes at the expense of our most vulnerable.

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are essential to Maryland's economy and culture. I will support the "Maryland Trust Act" to ensure local resources aren't diverted to federal enforcement, fostering community safety for all. I will fight to expand the "Access to Care Act," ensuring all Marylanders can purchase health insurance regardless of status. By supporting workforce development and English-language programs, we empower our neighbors to thrive, strengthening District 4's businesses and communities.

Jason E. Keckler

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DATA CENTERS: I believe data centers serve an integral role in our technological needs. That said, there are many infrastructure and environmental concerns regarding data centers that have not been adequately addressed. Additionally, our citizens have voiced their concerns and overwhelmingly

oppose the data centers proposed by our local government. I do not support establishing additional data centers until comprehensive impact studies are completed. These concerns should outweigh any economic benefits.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland is a net importer of energy. The closure of several fossil-fuel power plants since 2012, without a reliable energy replacement, has been a major cause of rising costs. The addition of several energy taxes and fees has also greatly increased the cost burden on our citizens. I believe we should focus on eliminating burdensome taxes and fees and on converting closed power plants to produce natural gas and nuclear energy. We can combine renewable energy sources without unrealistic mandates.

TRANSPORTATION:

Public transportation is important for our workforce and citizens. However, rather than focusing on expensive, inefficient large-scale mass-transit projects, it would be wiser to fund the maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure and make cost-effective upgrades. Maryland commuters, especially in rural areas, rely on automobiles for their daily transportation. It is more beneficial to shift transportation funds to improving our highways and road infrastructure to reduce congestion.

BUDGET: Maryland is facing year-over-year structural deficits due to wasteful spending. My budget priorities would be 1) Restore accountability and transparency regarding where your tax dollars are being spent and make cuts to non-essential services. 2) Reevaluate the Blueprint structure and spending mandates that are not sustainable. 3) Eliminate burdensome taxes and fees on our citizens that are driving out residents and businesses. We need to focus on private-sector growth.

IMMIGRATION: As a retired law enforcement officer in Maryland, I spent 22 years upholding the Constitution and laws of this state. I worked closely with our immigrant communities to provide outreach, education, and prevention services that fostered trust and respect. I support all Maryland residents and welcome those who choose to make Maryland their home, provided they respect our laws.

April Fleming Miller

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DATA CENTERS: While data centers offer economic potential, they cannot come at the expense of Maryland families. I urged the County Council not to expand the overlay zone and voted to override the Governor's veto on a comprehensive Data Center impact study. We must pause to evaluate the strain on our grid, water, schools, and land. I am sponsoring legislation for ratepayer and school protection, ensuring residents aren't forced to subsidize massive infrastructure costs required by these hyperscale campuses.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland's utility bills are soaring from regional grid strain. Exponential demand from data centers, especially in Virginia, drove PJM capacity auction prices up over 800% summer of 2024 and still climbing. This also triggers destructive & costly new transmission lines funded by MD ratepayers. We need practical solutions: reform PJM rules to stop subsidizing out-of-state tech hubs, and expand reliable in-state baseload generation, including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), for affordability.

TRANSPORTATION:

Maryland's transportation policy desperately needs a course

correction. The Purple Line is a prime example of government overreach, failing taxpayers with skyrocketing costs and delays, cutting through neighborhoods and UMD. The Red Line relaunch threatens to waste billions more, while systemic MTA audit failures reveal shameful payroll and procurement mismanagement. We cannot continue pouring money into failing transit experiments. I prioritize directing funding toward safe roads and bridges.

BUDGET: My priorities are fiscal sanity and economic growth. I would fix the Blueprint first, as mandates are stifling innovation, driving our state structural deficit & busting County budgets. Eliminating waste exposed in failed audits is critical. I'll fight to cut the tech tax, cut taxes and fees & improve business climate. I'll champion energy reform to make reliable, cost-effective power possible. Families can no longer afford housing or retirement. We must grow the economy, not the government.

IMMIGRATION: To support our communities, we must prioritize the rule of law and the safety of all Marylanders. My focus is on ensuring that state resources are used efficiently for residents and immigration follows the proper legal path. I oppose "sanctuary" policies that strain our local budgets and infrastructure. By focusing on a strong economy, safe neighborhoods, and high-quality schools, we create an environment where every resident has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to Maryland's future.

Jesse T. Pippy

Republican Party

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DATA CENTERS: I do not support the expansion of data centers in Maryland. Data Centers consume a tremendous amount of electricity, leading to more transmission lines and higher energy costs for ratepayers. Additionally, data centers can have a negative impact on our local communities by straining the water supply, creating noise pollution and even impacting air quality. Given that our power grid is inadequate to handle such an expansion, I do not believe the economic benefits outweigh the costs.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland does not produce enough energy to meet the demand of its residents. Maryland currently imports 40% (and rising) of its energy from neighboring states at a premium cost. Additionally, rate riders (surcharge programs such as EmPOWER and Stride) that are attached to Maryland utility bills have increased the cost to ratepayers. We can provide relief to our residents by producing more energy in Maryland and placing a moratorium on any surcharges until utility rates come down.

TRANSPORTATION:

Unfortunately, many types of

transportation programs in Maryland need to be improved. Most counties are rural and its residents rely on Hwy projects for transportation. These projects have been placed on hold for years including in Frederick County. For the jurisdictions that rely mostly on public transportation, there needs to be a balance between the cost to maintain these programs and the need. Taxpayers cannot afford to expand public transportation while running billion-dollar deficits.

BUDGET: Maryland has had a billion plus budget deficit for two years in a row. Maryland taxpayers cannot afford to have their taxes raised again or have every fee increased, such as vehicle registrations. Taxpayers expect their government to live within its means. I would prioritize school construction, road improvements (infrastructure) and public safety. I believe these are essential government functions. Maryland needs to change its spending habits and become more affordable for its residents.

IMMIGRATION: I believe all residents that engage in Maryland commerce can contribute to the economy. I will focus on supporting policies that improve Maryland's economy by expanding our private sector, which will lead to more jobs and economic opportunities for all of Maryland's residents. As a member of the General Assembly for 8 years, I have been a strong supporter of our small businesses.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT 5

The Issues

DUTIES: Maryland State Delegates enact laws, raise revenue through taxes and fees, and approve the spending of money by state agencies in an annual budget. They may propose amendments to the state Constitution for ratification by the voters and oversee the operation of all state government departments.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$55,636

HOW ELECTED: Elected by residents of each of Maryland's 47 legislative districts. Voters in each district may vote for three delegates.

WEBSITE: *https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District*

DATA CENTERS: Data centers can bring some economic benefit, but also have a negative impact on the power grid, water supply, and land use. Do you support the establishment of additional data centers in Maryland? Why or why not?

UTILITY COSTS: What do you see as the factors contributing to escalating utility costs in Maryland? How will you address them?

TRANSPORTATION: Should the availability of public transportation be improved across the state? Why or why not?

BUDGET: Maryland is required to balance the budget every year. What will be your three top budget

priorities, and what programs will you fight for?

IMMIGRATION: Immigrants are an important part of our community and make significant contributions, including to Maryland's economy. What will you do to support immigrant communities in Maryland?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 3

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DATA CENTERS: I do not currently support expanding data centers in Maryland. While they may provide economic benefits, they also raise serious concerns about energy demand, water use, land conservation, and community impact. I believe decisions of this scale should be guided by evidence, so I support waiting for the state's data center study before considering additional expansion. Responsible leadership means making informed

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decisions that protect both our environment and quality of life.

UTILITY COSTS:

Maryland families deserve affordable, reliable utility service. Rising costs are driven by higher transmission costs, grid capacity constraints, and growing electricity demand. I will work with state and federal partners, utilities, consumer advocates, and communities to strengthen grid planning, protect ratepayers, hold utilities accountable, and ensure major energy users pay their fair share.

TRANSPORTATION:

Yes. Reliable public transportation expands opportunity and strengthens communities by connecting people to work, healthcare, schools, and essential services. I support investing in safe, affordable, and accessible transit through collaboration with local communities to meet Marylanders' needs. As a rural county, Carroll County also needs transportation options that better connect residents to jobs, healthcare, and regional transit.

BUDGET: Maryland must maintain a balanced budget while investing in what matters most. My priorities are: (1) Lowering the cost of living by making utilities and transportation more affordable for working families. (2) Expanding access to affordable healthcare by increasing access to providers and keeping care and prescription medications within reach. (3) Strengthening public education to build thriving communities and prepare students for success.

IMMIGRATION: As a first-generation Chinese Cuban American, I understand the challenges many immigrant families face. During this past legislative session, I testified in Annapolis in support of the Community Trust Act because I believe trust between communities and government is essential. As a delegate, I will continue working with community organizations to expand access to education, healthcare, legal resources, and language services so immigrant families can thrive.

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DATA CENTERS: I do not support additional data centers in Maryland at this time. We do not yet know how to offset the utility and environmental impacts to make whatever economic benefit we may gain to be worth it.

UTILITY COSTS: Data centers are absolutely driving up the cost of utilities, and those profiting most off of both the data centers and the utility companies are allowing these costs to be passed onto working Marylanders rather than impacting their profits. We need a halt to data centers until we can better understand and mitigate their impacts, and we need to see that rising utility costs are being absorbed by CEOs and upper management before being passed onto residents.

TRANSPORTATION:

Public transportation helps to solve two of our most serious problems: Unemployment and climate change. Not having the ability to get to work is a huge issue for many who would otherwise be employed. Cutting down on exhaust and congestion while providing an affordable transportation option across the state is a win-win.

BUDGET: My top three budget priorities are education, foster care, and affordable housing. All three of these have a major impact on Maryland's children, who need to be our priority this year and every year.

IMMIGRATION: I support ending all partnerships between the state and ICE, including the location of detention centers and other facilities. ICE has proven to be an unlawful and damaging presence in communities they enter, full stop. We need to work to undo that damage their racist and violent actions have had on our immigrant community by continuing to provide supports for immigrants in Maryland.

Courtney Alexa Welch

Democratic Party

No response received by deadline.

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DATA CENTERS: I feel that Data Centers can provide jobs. Unfortunately, they have proven to be problematic in Carroll County due to the proposed Transmission Lines involved in the current proposal from PSEG. The taking of property to enact this plan is unacceptable. The drain on the grid is significant. Energy policies that have been enacted in Maryland over the past few years with the elimination of power plants and the focus on solar and wind have driven up the cost of everyone's bill.

UTILITY COSTS: Laws passed over the past several years have resulted in much higher utility bills for our citizens. We cannot rely on wind and solar to provide enough energy for our grid. This results in Maryland becoming an energy importer using power from other states which is expensive and is resulting in a threat to property owners in Carroll County. We need to reopen power plants, bring on new natural gas plants and support research and development of nuclear reactors.

TRANSPORTATION: We have invested too much money in public transportation as a policy in Maryland. This is at the expense of moving forward with road projects throughout the state including Carroll. Putting resources into public transit has also pulled budget dollars away from road and bridge safety. The red line is entirely too expensive and we need to stop subsidizing WMATA which has never been self sustaining.

BUDGET: We need to support the business community to generate growth and employment opportunities. We need to repeal non-business friendly legislation. We should cut the corporate income tax rate which benefits both large and the smallest of businesses. We need to repeal laws that make Maryland a very unfriendly business state. We need to address utility costs and the tax burden on families. We must become competitive in our region to provide a much better environment for business growth and jobs.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration. I appreciate the contribution of other cultures in our

country. I think that there are many programs already in place to assist in the assimilation of immigrants to the US and provide the "American Dream" for everyone. I do believe we must do that legally. I would support laws that would help to streamline the pathway to legal immigration.

Chris Tomlinson

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DATA CENTERS: I believe we need a temporary moratorium on new data centers in Maryland, while we consider options and strategies to mitigate their potential drain on resources – especially power and water. Ultimately, I believe data centers can be a net positive for Maryland, bringing new jobs and revenue, if the proper planning, locating, permitting, and oversight processes are put in place.

UTILITY COSTS: Maryland's energy crisis is a self-inflicted result of progressive climate policies that prioritize green idealism over economic stability, energy reliability, and the needs of citizens. Forced premature retirements of coal plants and a stubborn refusal to permit even clean natural gas (the proper short-term answer) is at the heart of the problem. The only reasonable, reliable long-term answer is nuclear power.

TRANSPORTATION: I worked at the Maryland Transit Administration from 2017 to 2024 in management. I understand the importance of public transit and why it's absolutely needed in some parts of the state. Rather than ignoring the benefits of public transportation on one side, or trying to socially engineer society by pushing everyone to public transportation on the other, I seek a mixed approach, balancing the public's personal preferences with demographic and geographic realities and available financial resource.

BUDGET: My budget priorities are: 1 - to not balance the budget by raising taxes & fees. Hardworking Marylanders pay more than

enough and we need to resist the government's ever-growing appetite for more funding. 2 - I'd prioritize restoring the DDA cuts. We can't balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable. 3 - the State needs to fund the many mandates inherent in Blueprint, if it continues to refuse to grant local jurisdictions the flexibility to run their own school.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration into the US, and I oppose illegal immigration, and I believe it is the duty of the government to enforce the law. Legal immigrants and immigrant communities are welcome and valued members of our state. They deserve the same support and protection as any other residents. I don't believe they need or want special treatment – just open arms and a fair shot.

Steve Whisler

Republican Party

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DATA CENTERS: Data centers offer a unique opportunity to create jobs and tax revenue that can fund local government services and schools; however, I would require strict guardrails to permit their use. First, local communities, not Annapolis, should always decide where data centers are located. In addition, facilities must generate their own power with Small Module Reactors (SMRs) or other safe, approved methods. It is critical that data facilities never impact our local power grid and existing utility rates.

UTILITY COSTS:

Marylanders experience very high utility bills due to unrealistic climate

change policies. Sadly, a large portion (about 30%) of current utility bills include taxes and fees designed to create and deliver wind and solar projects that won't inject power into our grid for many years to come. The decision to close several power plants in recent years has forced Maryland to import about 40% of our electricity; and we will likely need to import about 80% if two other locations are forced to close.

TRANSPORTATION:

Annapolis shouldn't enact more comprehensive public transportation policies statewide. Very few citizens use existing methods and we have a larger population working remotely. Allocating more funds to expand the existing grid is unwise, considering the state's financial woes. I'm very concerned that state leaders use the Transportation Trust Fund as a slush fund to move money into the General Fund to "balance the budget." I would prefer funds be provided to localities where they can use it best.

BUDGET: The growth of Maryland's

budget is astonishing -- now at \$70 billion. Our governor started with a \$5 billion surplus, created a \$3 billion deficit in just two years, and enacted the largest tax and fee increase in state history. (1) I will oppose any new tax and fee increases. (2) I will not support pushing more costs onto county governments and municipalities to "balance a budget." (3) We must reform significantly Medicaid eligibility to ensure only those who truly need it receive support.

IMMIGRATION: I definitely support immigrants that are here in Maryland legally. That said, Maryland must end misguided sanctuary policies that have attracted nearly 300,000 illegal immigrants. Our state spends over \$3 billion annually to provide them with health care, housing, education, and so much more. We must always support our state and local law enforcement to deport safely all criminal illegal aliens -- not force their release into our communities and pose a significant threat to our communities.

FREDERICK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DUTIES: The County Executive directs, supervises and oversees Frederick County Government departments and agencies, establishes policies and proposes the budget.

TERM: The County Executive serves a four-year term and not more than two consecutive terms.

SALARY: \$137,000, plus benefits

HOW ELECTED:

Beginning in 2014 and every four years thereafter, the registered voters of the entire County shall elect a County Executive in the manner provided by law at the same time as members of the General Assembly are elected

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

residents facing housing insecurity with the interest of housing providers?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

6. How would you address concerns of the county's senior citizens, particularly regarding mental health services and making in-home, non-medical aide services more accessible and affordable?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Jessica Fitzwater

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1. I work every day to make Frederick County a community where everyone can live, work, and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging. I was elected County Executive after two terms on the County Council and 16 years as a teacher, and public education is my top priority. In my first three budgets, we increased education funding by 30% and prioritized school construction and renovation. If re-elected, I will continue to work to grow our economy and tackle affordability.

2. Data centers are the most regulated industry in the County. In 2023, I convened a Data Centers Workgroup and paused applications for new development. We created strict new standards for data centers, & proposed an overlay to prevent data center sprawl, ensure they can't be built on 99% of our land, & limit development to an area with appropriate infrastructure. County governments cannot regulate electric utilities, & I have consistently encouraged state lawmakers to act on this critical issue.

3. We are prioritizing building housing on County-owned land, including construction of 150

affordable homes next to the Prospect Center, with access to schools, transit, and other services. We released our Housing Strategic Plan, a data-informed roadmap for addressing the housing affordability crisis- the first in a decade. I will introduce legislation to improve our moderately priced dwelling units ordinance. We have also significantly increased funding for the Housing Initiative Fund.

4. ICE's enforcement tactics are designed to divide communities and foster division and fear. I condemn them in the strongest terms possible. I actively supported state legislation to ban 287(g) agreements between the federal government and local law enforcement. I increased grant programs which help immigrant-serving non-profit organizations, and I strengthened the County's commitment to inclusive practices in the face of unprecedented federal pressure to end such programs.

5. Local governments are more important in the climate fight than ever because of the current administration's relentless efforts to rollback environmental regulations. As County Executive, I advanced our Internal Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) & released our Community CEAP. I will prioritize

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as County Executive?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to balance the needs of

Frederick County Executive, *continued from 17*

decarbonizing County buildings & codifying electrification measures. We will continue our focus on projects like the Prospect Center solar array and microgrid to build operational & community resilience. 6. We must do more to meet older residents' needs as our senior population continues to grow. As County Executive, I opened the Middletown 50+ Community Center, expanded tax credits for older residents, and launched a service coordination model designed to help seniors age in place. We're conducting a feasibility study to ensure future senior centers meet the needs of older adults now and in the future. I will continue to prioritize building new senior centers and investing in senior housing.

William J. Holtzinger

Republican Party

1. I am life long resident of Frederick County and earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the U. of MD and Law Degree from Catholic University of America. I have seen the growth of Frederick and how it has not always been managed well. My experience as a Mayor, former City Engineer, and as a private sector Engineer and attorney have provided me with a unique insight into the issues with infrastructure and public services keeping pace with growth. I have 30 years experience in both professions.

2. As with any development a thorough analysis of adequate public facilities is a bare minimum. This is particularly the case with water supply for the data centers. Likewise for the needed electric power and how the data center demands on both will impact Frederick County residents. It is far from clear that this critical analysis took place. The

City of Frederick has two data center sites and this also must be factored into the water supply issue as the City depends on the County for water supply

3. This is a very difficult issue for the government to tackle. The County could look to work with the Housing Authority to support its efforts to address affordable housing. Incentives to builders to be able to build more affordable housing units must be balanced with maintaining adequate public facilities, which in part is what drives up the costs to build residential units. Some fast-tracking of permits could also incentivize builders to build more affordable housing units.

4. As County Executive I would focus on Local Government issues and not look to interject County Government into Federal Government actions.

5. I would continue with sound

development review for stormwater management and limiting impervious area as practical. This likely has the greatest effect on limiting our impact. I would also empower permit reviewers to work those submitting for permits to use common sense to increase energy efficient homes. I do not concur with the premise/ conclusion of the question. However, I do believe in maintaining sound and common sense environmental practices to limit humans' impact on the environment

6. Although I am very fiscally conservative this is an area where the County needs to fund better. These services are best expanded through the Health Department. This is a quasi County agency. Therefore, the County would need to work with the State of Maryland to accomplish expanding the Health Department's ability to provide these services

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL AT LARGE

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms.

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?

3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 2

Tiffany Grant

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1. Losing both parents at age 18, to co-parent four siblings taught me that systems must work when families need them most; from our rural towns to our city streets. My M.A. in Forensic Psychology degree and finance career provide the tools to analyze complex risks and ensure fiscal discipline. I'll bring that urgency to the Council, prioritizing transparency and responsible growth where infrastructure is paid for first. I'll work as hard for your family's stability as I have for my own.

2. We must get this right. We've watched Northern Virginia get overrun; farmland lost, power grids strained, residents stuck with the bill. Frederick County's farmland and rural character are worth protecting. I support strict zoning that confines data centers to appropriate industrial areas. Developers must secure their own power; not shift costs onto families and small businesses. Smart growth means protecting what makes Frederick home while ensuring we never repeat unnecessary mistakes.

3. Frederick's housing crisis hits renters hardest. Unstable housing drives poor health outcomes, disrupts children's education, and

hollows out communities. I support strong displacement protections, closing developer loopholes that eliminate affordable units, and ADU zoning that works for both rural landowners and city neighborhoods. County land should house Frederick residents first. Rent stabilization has a place when families are being priced out faster than we can build.

4. I know firsthand the fear of driving through your own county wondering if you'll make it home. In Frederick County, families are sheltering in place, skipping doctor's appointments, and keeping children home from school. That is a public health and community crisis. Every resident deserves dignity and safety regardless of status. I support Know Your Rights funding, safe access to county health services, school protection protocols, and real accountability for bias in local policing.

5. Frederick County's farms, mountains, and open landscapes are worth fighting for. Climate change is already threatening them through flooding, extreme heat, and unchecked sprawl. Once our farmland is gone, it's gone forever. I support fully implementing our Climate and Energy Action Plan, protecting Priority Preservation and Rural Legacy Areas, holding

developers and polluters to strict standards, and securing federal environmental funding currently at risk. We have a duty to protect our land.

Renee Knapp

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1. I became a mother at a relatively young age, and I have spent my adult life advocating and providing a support system for my autistic son. This has shaped my approach to considering how I can advocate for all residents. It took me many years and attending 5 institutions before I got my BA in Criminal Justice from Mount St. Mary's University. I learned perseverance and the importance of critical thinking, and I understand the sacrifices that many

families face when pursuing higher education.

2. Through the Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay, Frederick County has created a single and finite geographical area where data centers are permitted. This prevents data center development from spreading to other regions. Frederick County should remain vigilant about enforcing this boundary. While the County does not regulate electricity consumption, we should consider offering incentives for greater energy efficiency and emerging technologies to reduce grid demand.

3. Many residents are struggling to find housing they can reasonably pay for in Frederick County, and many are finding they can't afford to stay here. This challenge requires actions that will address the needs of home owners and home renters. We need to review building and zoning codes to identify where regulations are impeding the creation of additional housing. Neighboring jurisdictions currently have rent stabilizing policies in place, under very specific conditions, that we should consider.

4. To reinforce trust with immigrant communities, more jurisdictions are responding to aggressive tactics by asserting local control to establish areas where federal immigration authorities are not permitted to establish operating bases or staging areas for civil immigration enforcement. I support considering local legislation to prohibit the use of county-owned property to be used for these purposes. Most importantly, these restrictions would not interfere with federal operations or arrests.

5. By focusing on climate resilience measures through the building of green infrastructure, Frederick County can mitigate changing and more frequent climate extremes. This focus should inform planning efforts to help manage storm water, reduce flooding, and manage heat island effects. Incorporating the use of rain gardens, permeable pavements, urban tree canopies, and green roofs in community infrastructure will protect our air quality, support biodiversity, and reduce our vulnerabilities.

Jack Felton

Republican Party

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1. As the Postmaster of Walkersville, Jefferson and Mt. Airy I have an abundance of life experiences.

2. I am against not have a safe plan before voting yes .

3. I support affordable housing and efforts to reduce rental cost.

4. Zero profiling and stopping residents who are not breaking the law.

5. Ensure proper funding is always available for disaster management.

Diane Fouché

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?

3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Louisa Conklin

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Campaign Instagram

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1. My New Jersey public school education prepared me to graduate from Johns Hopkins with Honors ('06). I know the value of great public schools like ours, and will advocate with my full chest for a fully funded FCPS. I rented for fifteen years before I bought my first home in 2022 with my husband, and I'm ready to fight for tenant protections and affordable housing. I've used public transportation in the few major cities I've lived in for the 20 years I've worked, and still rely on the MARC.

2. I am opposed to the expanded data center overlay and to the use of land within rural preservation areas to build data centers. I believe data centers should have to supply at minimum 70% of their own power via renewables. If elected to office, my first action would be to introduce legislation to reverse the approval of the expanded overlay and approve the roughly 1600 acre site recommended by the county's Planning Commission.

3. Frederick County needs rent stabilization, and we also need the state to enable us to enact good cause eviction. I'm concerned that the solutions for affordable housing we will see put forward will be developer-driven and market oriented. We can make improvements to zoning and permitting to make it faster and cheaper to build, but the county will need to play hardball to get developers to actually build the truly affordable housing our residents need. I'm prepared to hold the line on that.

4. Remember what it was like during quarantine, when we couldn't leave our homes, see our friends or family outside our household, send our

Frederick County Council Dist 1, continued from 19

kids to school? We have neighbors going through that because they are worried they'll disappear, or their kids will be taken. Whatever it takes, we need to ensure our sheriff's office is compliant with the reversal of 287(g). We need to support the organizations on the ground helping immigrants, and we need to keep working on building a more humane future.

5. Five years ago a group of experts put together the CRRR, a roadmap for cutting greenhouse emissions by 50% of 2010 levels by 2030/100% by 2050. A follow up report, the CEAP was released last year. We have good goals and a solid plan to achieve them; what we need is follow through. We need to weave cutting emissions and cooling our cities into every county decision

we make; we need to keep thinking and talking about 2050- we can't throw our long term vision away for economic expediency right now.

Frank J. Hollewa

Republican Party

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Campaign Phone: 301-676-1101

1. I have over 35 years of valued professional experience in management, customer relations and community service. I am connected to and have been involved in numerous non-profit groups helping within the community for a number of years. I have given a large percentage of my life helping others

and being a part of our community.

2. I am against any unchecked development growth. I am vividly against the CDI overlay and have spoken at a number of hearings and meetings standing up against the expansion. The issue (among others) is there was not a cost analysis nor environmental impact study done. There are unresolved issues and harmful concerns regarding water use and issues, high energy demand and cost, diesel generators in close proximity to a school and homes, and a vast number of other environmental concerns.

3. Affordable housing needs to be fixed and addressed on a number of levels. Government fees and costs needs addressed along with investments in housing infrastructure and streamlined processes to help

curve housing costs.

4. The current Sheriff policy has kept this issue in balance. Continue to operate under 287(g) agreements. Frederick County has an agreement with ICE since 2008. Our overall Public safety needs to be important to our community. I support our local hard working law enforcement community.

5. Added programs can be added including recycling drives and awareness programs, We need more initiatives to conserve energy, maintain clean air, reduce waste and protect our water quality. Development of community outreach programs and responders to help as needed during any local disaster event.

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms

SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?

2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement

of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?

3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?

4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

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[shoplandforfrederickcounty](https://www.instagram.com/shoplandforfrederickcounty)

1. I bring policy/legal expertise, leadership in large organizations like Amtrak, and hands-on experience working with public institutions and serving on boards like the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Governing Board and the Frederick County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee. These experiences have strengthened my ability to analyze complex issues, build consensus, and collaboratively make thoughtful, data-informed decisions on behalf of Frederick County residents.

2. We're experiencing rapid technological change. Data centers are infiltrating our economy and their intense industrial use brings significant challenges our society is not ready for, particularly around land use, energy demand, water consumption, and environmental, health, and community impact. Frederick County should have limited the CDI Overlay Zone to the Planning Commission's recommendation and should have waited for the state study bill to complete its work before proceeding further.

3. I support legislation that encourages the development of diverse housing types such as smaller homes, accessory dwelling units, inclusionary zoning, and mixed-income communities so that people at different income levels have options. Streamlining permitting processes and reducing unnecessary barriers to building smaller or starter

homes can help increase supply. Any rent stabilization policy should be carefully designed, data-driven, and paired with incentives to continue building new housing.

4. Protecting civil rights and ensuring fair treatment under the law for everyone must remain a priority. While immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility, local government has an important role in ensuring that local services such as schools, health services, and emergency response remain accessible to everyone. When people are afraid to seek medical care, report crimes, or send their children to school, it undermines the safety and well-being of the entire community.

5. I support expanding renewable energy, improving energy efficiency in public buildings, preserving our farmland and natural resources, and encouraging smart growth near transit that reduces sprawl and transportation emissions. Sustainability is not only about protecting the environment. It is also about protecting public health, strengthening our local economy, and ensuring that future generations can thrive in Frederick County.

Dan Iampieri

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms
SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

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The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if

any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?

5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Christian Benford

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1. I was born and raised in Frederick County by working-class parents. My mother escaped an abusive marriage, and my father fled the civil war in El Salvador. Growing up with poverty, limited resources, and racism showed me how systems fail working people and led me to public service. I have worked in local government and organized with the Frederick Democratic Socialists of America because we are stronger when we act collectively. I hold a B.S. in Psychology and a Master of Public Administration.

2. I opposed the expansion of data centers beyond the Planning Commission and staff recommendations, which also affected the Rural Legacy Area and farmland, and said so before the December 23 vote. Residents and experts are raising serious concerns about environmental impacts, infrastructure strain, and energy demand on the grid. I support

limiting expansion and ensuring developers pay their fair share, both for energy and their business assets.

3. Residents deserve consistent, safe, and dignified living conditions. I am championing rent stabilization for this reason. I also want to create an affordable housing fund by establishing a countywide rental licensing program. Additionally, I want to help establish a County Housing Authority so we can provide non-market housing opportunities such as subsidized units, social housing, community land trusts, and community land banks to ensure sustained, affordable housing for generations.

4. I opposed 287(g) and will continue to stand up for our community members. I propose a Frederick Community Trust Act limiting public employee cooperation with ICE, preventing unjust detention, information sharing, or transfers without judicial warrants. I will work with the Immigrant Affairs Commission to expand outreach and ensure residents have resources and support creating an immigrant affairs coordinator to increase cooperation among community partners and County government.

5. Our environment is our foundation. I support countywide green infrastructure initiatives such as building rain gardens and bioswales that reduce erosion and mitigate flooding, and expanding renewable, public energy, all while creating green jobs. I support expanding public garden programs and partnerships with local farmers to strengthen food access. I will hold data centers accountable through fair taxation, strong regulation, and a moratorium until an independent impact study is conducted.

Tammie Baugher

Republican Party

Campaign Phone: 240-285-8298

1. I would say life experiences, I have lived in Frederick County

for 40 plus years. I have seen alot through the years, it is just time for a change. Someone different to help make a difference and take charge for our community. The growth in our County is a little much, as we are over crowded, traffic is ridiculous almost anytime of day. Schools are over crowded, we don't even have enough teachers and or transportation for our children.

2. The data center does not belong in our backyard. Our electric bills are already rising. And the data center is going to require a lot more push on our systems, that would mean continuing rising prices for electricity. They already expanded with the growth of Frederick County, and resources are definitely on a thin line in our futures.

3. I have heard so much talk about affordable housing, but have not seen 1 affordable housing development yet, I sure can not afford a \$450,000.00 plus house, and yet have my neighbor through the next wall. If I could afford \$450,000.00 plus, I sure better have some land and space. Honestly on the protecting sharp increases, well the owner is paying more taxes, because that is rising as well, so then rent increases. So all this growth, is now increasing taxes and electricity, water and rent.

4. Honestly, I'm sure they are trying to do their job and protect the community. My thing is do it right come into the community legally and be a law abiding citizen and enjoy the freedoms we have. If there is a crime that has been committed then they just go through the system and get transferred through ICE , if they are a undocumented immigrant.

As for anyone who commits a crime no matter color, they shall be prosecuted through like anyone else.

5. Climate change, is everyone doing what they can to help make a difference. We have to do work together as a community and help. The Climate is changing so we must come up with planning together as a community.



FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

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SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County

- and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
 4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
 5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

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1. My education and life experience have grounded me in the realities

- families face, and I've turned that into action on the Council. As a seventh-generation Frederick County resident, I believe deeply in stewardship: protecting what was built before us and expanding opportunity for what comes next. That's why I led efforts to keep transit fares free for residents. I remain committed to creating opportunities for future generations and making decisions that reflect the needs of our community.
2. To responsibly manage the growth of this emerging industry, I supported a targeted approach that directs data center development to appropriate areas and prevents unchecked expansion across the county. As the fastest-growing county in Maryland, we have to meet rising demands on schools, infrastructure, and services—but we have to do it the right way. That means protecting our communities, planning intentionally, and ensuring growth doesn't come at the expense of residents.
 3. Housing affordability is the top concern I hear from residents. I championed the County's housing study to guide solutions and strategies to address this, and I'll continue championing policies that expand housing options, including targeted government incentives to create more affordable units. We must increase supply while protecting residents from

displacement and keeping Frederick County a place people can afford to call home. Rent stabilization is one tool to help achieve that balance.

4. Frederick County is stronger because of its diversity. No one in our community should have to live in fear. Protecting the dignity, safety, and civil rights of all residents is essential to building a thriving and inclusive community. The county should continue partnering with and investing in organizations that help immigrant families and expand access to critical services. Everyone should feel safe accessing healthcare, sending their kids to school, and engaging with county services.
5. Frederick County must continue investing in sustainability and climate resilience. That means investing in clean energy, protecting agricultural land and natural resources, and strengthening infrastructure to withstand extreme weather. The County is already working to improve energy efficiency in county facilities, expand transit options, and support smart growth policies. We must continue to lead in these efforts.

Chaz Packan

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

DUTIES: The Council is the legislative branch of County Government. Members of the County Council pass legislation, appropriate money to fund the capital and operating budgets, set county property and other local taxes, and make planning, zoning, and subdivision decisions. The Council makes appointments to the offices, committees, and commissions that report to the Council. It also exercises oversight over County programs. Council members have the power to initiate legislation. Legislative sessions are limited to 45 days yearly and non-legislative sessions as needed.

TERM: County Council members serve for four years and no more than three consecutive terms
SALARY: \$35,000 per year with no benefits.

HOW ELECTED: The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large. The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at-large.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve on the County Council?
2. What is your position on legislation regulating the placement of data centers in Frederick County and the provision of the electric power that they require?
3. What legislation would you support to address the rising cost of housing in Frederick County? How do you understand the role of local government in protecting renters

- from sharp rent increases, and under what conditions (if any) would you support rent stabilization as part of a broader housing strategy?
4. Considering the current federal actions by ICE, what actions, if any, should be taken to protect undocumented immigrants and people of color living in Frederick County?
 5. What approach would you take to improve sustainability in Frederick County and to address disasters that may result from the current effects of climate change?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Johnny Mercer

Democratic Party

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Campaign Instagram:

[@mercerforthemany](https://www.instagram.com/mercerforthemany)

1. I grew up in a working-class family and saw how deeply public institutions shape opportunity. Organizing communities across the DMV showed me that local government decisions determine whether families can afford housing, groceries, or childcare—and whether people feel represented. That work taught me to listen, build coalitions, and fight for practical solutions. On the council, I'll bring that working-class perspective and stand up for residents who don't have lobbyists speaking for them.

2. We must be cautious about these data center developments. These facilities require enormous electricity and infrastructure, and residents should not face higher utility costs or sacrifice agricultural land and forests to support them. Data centers need to be limited to appropriate industrial zones and fully account for their environmental and infrastructure impacts, with companies paying for any grid upgrades. Frederick County's long-term interests must come before short-term development greed.

3. Housing affordability is a crisis in Frederick. Rents and home prices are

rising far faster than wages, pricing families out of the communities they grew up in. Local government must act when the market stops serving working people. I support stronger inclusionary housing, investment in affordable housing, and development policies that produce homes people can afford. We should also explore rent stabilization to prevent extreme rent hikes while pursuing long-term housing solutions.

4. Local government may not be able to control federal immigration policy, but we can ensure that our resources go toward serving and protecting our

communities rather than assisting masked gestapo in kidnapping them. That's why I've always been outspoken in my opposition to 287(g). County services must remain accessible and safe to all residents. Protecting civil rights and maintaining trust between immigrant communities and local government is essential for the safety and health of our county.

5. Climate change is already affecting communities across the country, including Frederick County. We must protect farmland and forests by expanding ag land preservation

and strengthening zoning to prevent sprawl. We should require climate-smart development with green infrastructure and renewable energy in public buildings. We must also upgrade stormwater systems and strengthen flood preparedness. As a council-member, I will push for a County Climate Action Plan as soon as possible!

Mason Carter

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

FREDERICK COUNTY JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT - CIRCUIT 6

DUTIES: Circuit Court Judges preside over jury and bench trials in the Circuit Court, which hears major criminal trials with the right to a jury, and civil cases involving more than \$30,000. They also handle family law matters like divorce and custody, and decide appeals from lower courts.

TERM: Four years, no term limit

SALARY: \$214,433

HOW ELECTED: Circuit Court Judges are elected county-wide. When there is a vacancy, the

Governor appoints a person to fill the office from a list recommended by a judicial nominating commission, which reviews each applicant's qualifications and experience. Each newly appointed judge will appear on the ballot in the first election occurring after at least one year after the vacancy. Attorneys who are members of the Maryland Bar may also run to challenge a newly appointed sitting judge. Candidates run on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots, but

not the nonpartisan ballot given to unaffiliated voters.

WEBSITE:

<https://www.courts.state.md.us/circuit>

CHALLENGES: What are the greatest challenges facing the Maryland court system and how should they be addressed?

The Issues

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

PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this judgeship?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Julia Ann Minner

No response received by deadline.

JUDGE, APPELLATE COURT OF MARYLAND, AT LARGE

DUTIES: The Appellate Court of Maryland is the state's intermediate appellate court. The Court considers appeals of almost any case that originates in a Maryland Circuit Court or Orphans' Court. Cases are considered by panels of three judges, one of whom authors a written opinion deciding the case. The Appellate Court consists of 15 active judges, at least one of whom comes from each of the state's seven geographic appellate courts.

HOW ELECTED: Judges of the Appellate Court are appointed by the Governor from a list of candidates that have been determined to be qualified by a judicial nominating commission and are then confirmed by the State Senate. At the first election after their appointment, and every ten years thereafter, the judges must appear on the ballot for the voters to decide whether or not they should continue in office.

TERM: Ten years, no term limit.

Mandatory retirement at age 70.

SALARY: \$229,533

WEBSITE: www.mdcourts.gov/acm

The Issues

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY: What is your judicial philosophy?

MOTIVATION: Why do you want to continue serving in this role?

FAIRNESS: How will you ensure fairness in Maryland Courts?

Candidates

Vote yes or no for continuance in office

Dan Friedman

No response received by deadline.

FREDERICK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

DUTIES: The State's Attorney is the chief prosecutor for the county, representing the State in District Court and Circuit Court proceedings. The State's Attorney works with local law enforcement agencies to evaluate evidence, to decide whether or not to bring charges against suspects, negotiate plea bargains, and try cases before juries

or judges. The State's Attorney also ensures that victims and witnesses are supported.

TERM: Four-year term

SALARY: \$188,777 (statutorily set with annual increase equal to the average increment and salary adjustment of Frederick County employees).

HOW ELECTED: County-wide

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve as the County State's Attorney?
2. What are your priorities for the position?
3. What is your position on revising the current system for setting bail for non-violent offenses?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Charlie Smith

No response received by deadline.

FREDERICK COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

DUTIES: The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Frederick County is responsible for managing judicial records, recording land deeds, issuing licenses (marriage, business) and collecting fees for the state and county. The Clerk administers oaths of office to Notaries Public, County officials, Judges and Governor appointees. The Clerk can also perform civil marriage ceremonies.
TERM: Four-year term
SALARY: Determined by the Maryland Board of Public Works. Not to exceed \$146,500.
HOW ELECTED: County-wide

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?
2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Megan LeRoux

Democratic Party

Campaign Facebook:

LeRouxForClerk@facebook.com

Campaign Email:

MeganPowderlyLeRoux@yahoo.com

Campaign Phone: 301-788-1153

Campaign Instagram:

LeRouxClerkofCourt

1. My work ethic is rooted in generations of union members and leaders, including my ancestor Terence V. Powderly. I am an AFSCME and former UFCW member. While working full-time and raising my youngest son, I got up early, stayed up late, and studied during every work break. I had

access to the Law Library after hours and weekends. I earned a degree in Legal Studies, cum laude and a certificate from the Inst. for Court Mgmt This position demands hard work from 9 to 5, not a political figurehead.
2. Priority one is protecting Due Process and The Rule of Law for the citizens of Fred. Co. Today, we need local elected officials to declare and affirm their loyalty to the Constitution and not be complicit with the current Federal Adm. The biggest challenge will be thwarting any unlawful directives from Fed. Adm. I will not falter. Second, I will provide court staffers information regarding unionizing with AFSCME. Strength in numbers, there are 24 Circuit and 33 District Courts in Md.

Sandra K. Dalton

Republican Party

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Campaign Phone:

301-471-1188

1. In my 35th year as a judicial Employee, I was first elected as Clerk in 1998. Continuing education has been provided by the Judiciary, NCSC, MSU, ICM, and joint conferences I have achieved the designation of Certified Court Manager and Executive.
2. My priorities are to provide expert training for all staff. Many are cross-trained. My supervisors and I encourage an atmosphere where everyone works together and assists new employees to become part of our success team. Thank you for this opportunity!

FREDERICK COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS

DUTIES: The Register of Wills is responsible for appointing personal representatives to administer decedents' estates and for overseeing the proper and timely administration of these proceedings. The Register also assists the public in the preparation of all required forms; maintains and preserves the permanent record of all proceedings; serves as the Clerk to the Orphans' Court; tracks estates and refers delinquent matters to the Court; determines and collects inheritance taxes and probate fees/court costs; audits accounts of personal representatives and guardians; mails

various notices and court orders to interested persons; and verifies compliance with court orders.
TERM: Four-year term
SALARY: Determined by the Maryland Board of Public Works, not to exceed \$124,500
HOW ELECTED: County-wide.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you to serve in this position?
2. What are your priorities and what do you expect to be the biggest challenges to achieving them?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Chris Manners

Democratic Party

No response received by deadline.

Mary C. Rolle

Republican Party

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maryrolle@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 301-748-0544

1. I have been serving as Register of Wills since 2022. I have gained knowledge and experience since

being a Register. Prior to serving as Register, I was an Orphan's Court (probate court) Judge. During that time, I worked with the Register of Wills working with probate issues.
2. The priority of the job is to help families that have lost loved ones. This can be a very difficult time in their lives, and my role is to help them through the probate process with kindness, respect and knowledge. A challenge that I have addressed in the last 4 years is to educate the public about the importance of having a will. These priorities have been accomplished by community outreach and sponsoring pro-bono days at Frederick Community College.

FREDERICK COUNTY JUDGE OF THE ORPHANS' COURT

DUTIES: Judges of the Orphans' Court oversees probate, wills and estates. In addition, in Frederick County the court handles guardianship of a minor's property and in some cases Orphan's Court Judges conduct hearings that involve probate and guardianship disputes, review and act upon administration accounts, and request payments from estates or guardianships.
SALARY: \$10,000 for associate judges and \$500 in travel expenses

TERM: Four years with no term limits.
HOW ELECTED: Elected countywide.

The Issues

EXPERIENCE: How does your experience prepare you for the duties of this judgeship?
PRIORITIES: What are your priorities for this judgeship?

CHALLENGES: What is the greatest challenge facing the Orphans' Court system and how will you address it?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 3

Shuan Butcher

Democratic Party

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Campaign Phone: 240-344-4757

EXPERIENCE: I am an Army veteran who has spent more than 25 years in management and leadership positions in the nonprofit sector. I have served on a number of nonprofit boards and volunteered for various other causes and events,

with the goal of improving the quality of life for individuals and my community. I have taken some legal courses and have a basic understanding and a respect for the law. I will bring compassion, fairness, and integrity to this role if I am elected.

PRIORITIES: I see this position more as a service position, rather than a political one. I am always looking for ways I can serve my community and this is one of the ways I can do just that. A couple of years ago, my wife lost her mother and father within a relatively short period of time and it was then that I realized how important having someone who care and someone who understands the laws and policies to get individuals through this difficult time in their life.

CHALLENGES: The biggest challenge is the lack of understanding about what a Judge of the Orphans' Court does. It is one of those down ballot races that some folks are unsure what the role or purpose is. In Maryland, the Orphans' Court is the constitutionally established probate court for Frederick County and is responsible for overseeing the administration of estates as outlined by Article IV of the Constitution. Three individuals are elected every four years and work together to resolve any issues.

Lois Jarman

Democratic Party

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Campaign Email:

loisjarman@aol.com

Campaign Phone: 443-295-3338

EXPERIENCE: I have been a public servant, serving two years on the Frederick County Board of Education, and an educator for more than 30 years. I believe my integrity and honesty will serve the residents of Frederick County well.

PRIORITIES: My priority is to bring a spirit of fairness and a dedication

to the rule of law to this judgeship. If justice is indeed blind, I believe judges need to come to the bench having put aside any bias or preconceived ideas.

CHALLENGES: Three judges will serve the Orphans' Court, and I believe it will be essential for those judges to establish a strong working relationship. The judges will need to set the tone of teamwork from the get-go. I will bring to the table strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

Susan Reeder Jessee

Democratic Party

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Campaign Facebook:

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Campaign Phone: 240-385-5643

EXPERIENCE: As a lifelong resident of Frederick County, my academic and professional background, combined with my personal experience, have shaped my commitment to Judge of the Orphans' Court. I have worked in a regulated environments, upholding laws to ensure compliance and safety. In both my professional life & within the community, I have built lasting meaningful relationships. I spent countless hours in court rooms, driven by the memory of my sister, seeking justice on her behalf after her tragic death.

PRIORITIES: I will bring qualities most needed to do the job well: compassion, integrity, and common sense. Having worked in managerial roles, the most important thing I have learned is to listen first, research any concerns or situation, and then come up with solution that benefits everyone while following company policies and the law. As a judge, my priorities would include transparency, fairness, and justice for those who appear before us with the same caliber.

CHALLENGES: The state of Maryland, Orphan Court Judges are currently facing significant challenges, including ethical, criminal,

and interpersonal misconduct allegations. Improvements such as mandatory training, education requirements, and annual continuing education requirements should occur. Although there have not been any major scandals for Frederick County specifically, Maryland's focus on judicial transparency, and accountability for elected officials should be the focus, and Frederick County as well.

Rebecca Chmelik

Republican Party

No response received by deadline.

Karen Dacey

Republican Party

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karenforfrederick@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE: I've lived in Frederick County for almost 50 years, and after my husband Bob Dacey passed away, I saw firsthand the importance of estate planning. This is not a partisan position; it's about helping families in their time of need. I'm a retired nurse & lactation consultant who spent my career helping families - I'll bring that same compassion to this position. I'm a grandmother, "Nona," to 4 and mother of 5, ready to bring my lifetime of experience to the court.

PRIORITIES: In this role, my top priority would be administering the law fairly and equitably. This role is not partisan - it's about ensuring that estates are handled properly and that a person's last wishes are honored. I dedicated my life to being a nurse & lacion consultant for 35 years. I learned to deal with folks from all walks of life, and I look forward to bringing that same decency and compassion to this role.

CHALLENGES: Let's admit it, most people don't know what the Orphans' Court does, and when you do figure it out, it's likely one of the worst times of your life—families dealing with the tragedy of a death need to know the resources available. I'll work to ensure better education of the public to make

the process as smooth as possible. We've all dealt with loss. I hope that in this role, I can help make it a little easier for families.

Susan W. Wilson

Republican Party

Campaign Email:

newmrketplains@earthlink.net

Campaign Phone: 301-418-0485

EXPERIENCE: Compared to all other candidates, who have no prior experience, I have served on the Court for 4 1/2 years, appointed by Governor Hogan prior to being elected. Work experience: librarianship (41 years), interacting with clients and employees alike, emphasizing public service. Volunteer experience: chairmanship of the Planning Commission of the Town of New Market (10 years), Chief Judge of an election precinct for primary and general elections (several years), and participation in Leadership Fred

PRIORITIES: • Treat all with civility.

• Be clear and easily understood when communicating, easing the process of what can be a stressful and confusing experience for those in a courtroom for the first time. A smile and direct eye contact can alleviate concerns of family members whose main worry is often just to be heard. • Listen patiently, even if the person addressing the Court has an adversarial attitude or completely misunderstands the facts. Allow all the time to speak.

CHALLENGES: The movement for lay courts to be replaced by attorney judges. Many are actively working to eliminate our Court completely, claiming we have inadequate training/mental capacity for the job. We are required to complete the same number of annual continuing education hours as all other judges (who are attorneys). We have multiple resources to assist us in understanding the law's complexities. Organizational/ intellectual skill, empathy for others, plus participation in continuing ed are necessary.



FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF

DUTIES: The Sheriff is the primary law enforcement agency for Frederick County. The office has county-wide jurisdiction over law enforcement, court security, and the adult detention center. The Sheriff is the only official that serves all 3 segments of our criminal justice system; law enforcement, the courts, and corrections.

TERM: 4 years with no limit on the number of consecutive terms that may be served

SALARY: \$125,000

HOW ELECTED:

Elected countywide.

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

The Issues

1. How has your education and life experience prepared you for this position?
2. What policies would you pursue to avoid race discrimination and to increase understanding of the treatment of persons with mental illness by your officers?
3. What is your opinion on the level of community cooperation with law enforcement and departmental cooperation with other public leaders, and if you think these areas need improvement, what steps would you take to achieve that?
4. Would you continue the program of reporting undocumented immigrants to federal agencies? Why or why not?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 1

Karl Bickel

Democratic Party

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Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/karlbickelforsheriff/

Campaign Phone: 301-639-9665

1. Masters degree, management & police executive leadership certificate, Johns Hopkins U.; Masters & Bachelors, Justice, American University; Graduate of National Sheriff's Institute; Chief & second in command of FC sheriff's office; Patrol Officer & Detective Metropolitan Police Wash., DC; Senior Policy Analyst, US Department of Justice (retired); Asst. Prof Allegheny College; County Ex public Safety Transition Team; County Ex Ethics Task Force; Human Relations Commission; Substance Abuse Advisory
2. Would work with local college/university to study racial disparity that currently exists in arrests, traffic stops, investigative stops to prevent bias based policing. Results would be shared with the community and collaborative partnership with stakeholders will be formed to address any causes and/or problems discovered. Work with Ethan Saylor Alliance to improve training in dealing with special needs population, work to expand crisis car program.
3. Cooperation between law enforcement and community and political leaders is good with room for improvement. I will focus on procedural justice, both internally

and externally to enhance trust and strengthen relationships. As sheriff, I will prioritize collaborative problem solving that includes community stakeholders and political leaders. I will work to break down silos which will improve service quality and savings in the use of taxpayer dollars.

4. The 287(g) program has been banned in Maryland. I would 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, US Marshals, DEA, IRS, Postal Inspectors, etc. Sheriff's deputies would not act as ICE agents or perform the duties of ICE agents.

Chuck Jenkins

Republican Party

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Campaign Phone: 240-674-2170

1. There is no equal or substitute for the current relevant experience in law enforcement and corrections that I've gained managing and leading a full-service Sheriff's Office for 20 years. Real-world experience, ongoing training, and understanding changes in the law allow for effective management and decision-making. Decades-old college degrees and long-past careers in law enforcement

cannot prepare someone for the role of Sheriff today. I bring 20 years of current experience in this position.

2. Policies, resources, and training are already in place to respond to situations involving people with mental health issues. Initial training is provided to all entry level personnel, and annually to all personnel in law enforcement and corrections. Discrimination is avoided by training in anti-discrimination/bias, implicit bias, bias based policing, hate crimes, and cultural diversity. My message to our personnel is to treat every resident of this county the way you would treat your own family.
3. The levels of community cooperation, involvement, respect, and participation with law enforcement are extremely good. Our longstanding relationships with local, state, and federal agencies are excellent, with routine communication and cooperation whenever needed. Our involvement and support of other county divisions are strong and effective, with open lines of communication and immediate responses. Any differences that exist between public leaders and agency heads are set aside for the citizens.
4. I would continue to communicate and cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security / ICE, within the law to report criminal illegal aliens with detainers. The reason is very simple. The recently ended 287g Program in Frederick County facilitated the removal of 1,884 identified criminal aliens from Frederick County. This county is safer because of the program. Going forward, the concern is that we will not be able to identify the criminal aliens committing the crimes.

FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DUTIES: Members of the Board of Education determine and enforce policies that govern the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS). Among other responsibilities, the Board of Education appoints the Superintendent of Schools; sets policy, approves curriculum and major expenditures, oversees financial and operational governance of schools.

SALARY: \$14,000. The president of the Board receives \$15,000.

TERM: Four-year staggered terms; no term limit.

HOW ELECTED:

Elected Countywide in a nonpartisan election

Videos of candidate forums are available at the League of Women Voters of Frederick County YouTube channel.

Questions

1. Policy 443 has been a recent issue of importance in Frederick County Public Schools. What is your position on this issue and how will you act in

support of your position?

2. What is your position on banning books that are currently part of the school curriculum or library and what actions will you take in support of your position?

3. What strategies will you support to increase graduates' preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?

4. What changes, if any, should be made to FCPS' curriculum at all levels to enhance civics education? Should this include strategies for developing critical thinking skills in

students and how to discern factual information from disinformation?

5. How has your own education and life experience prepared you to serve on the School Board?

6. Do you believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future should receive full funding and implementation and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that happens? And if cuts in funding are necessary, what areas of the Blueprint do you believe should be a priority?

7. How can schools promote good citizenship skills such as learning

how to have respectful dialogue with others who have different opinions or beliefs?

Candidates

Vote for no more than 4

Casey Day

Nonpartisan

1. I support Policy 443 and ensuring that every student feels safe and welcome in our schools and classrooms. When students feel respected and valued, they are better able to focus on learning and grow into their best selves. Our schools should be places where all students can learn without fear of bullying or discrimination. As a Board member, I will support policies and practices that protect student safety, dignity, and belonging.

2. FCPS already has a policy and review process for instructional and library materials, and families can log into the library system to set preferences and make decisions for their own children. I do not support banning books for all students based on individual objections. As a Board member, I will uphold the FCPS review process, respect educators' expertise, and ensure compliance with Maryland's Freedom to Read Act.

3. Graduates are best prepared when schools provide strong academics and meaningful career pathways. As a computer science teacher, I support expanding dual enrollment, internships, apprenticeships, CTE, and industry partnerships while strengthening literacy and math. I will also work to ensure students across the county have equal access to these opportunities.

4. Strong civics education is essential to a representative and engaged democracy. FCPS should strengthen media literacy, source evaluation, civil discourse, civic engagement, and the inclusion of diverse civic perspectives and historically underrepresented voices. Students should learn to assess evidence and recognize misinformation and disinformation. As FCPS adds instruction on using AI, it is also an opportunity to strengthen critical thinking and information literacy.

5. My 31 years in FCPS classrooms, from elementary through high school, have given me a deep understanding of how Board decisions affect students and teachers every day. I have worked

closely with families, supported struggling readers, coached robotics teams, and advocated for policies that support students and staff locally and at the state and national level. I hold a BA and MS in Education, PK-12 certifications, and taught future literacy specialists at Hood College for 14 years.

6. The Blueprint builds on the important work of the Kirwan Commission to strengthen early learning, literacy, educator support, and career pathways. I support those goals. But today's fiscal realities mean implementation must be realistic and sustainable.

As a Board member, I will advocate for continued investment, support adjustments to timelines where staffing shortages make rollout difficult, and work with the state on potential revisions to AIB oversight to ensure practical implementation.

7. Schools promote good citizenship by teaching students how to listen, evaluate evidence, and engage respectfully with people who hold different views. Civics instruction should include structured discussions, debate, and service learning so students practice civil discourse and collaborative problem solving. When students learn to consider multiple perspectives, support ideas with evidence, and seek common ground, they build the skills needed to participate responsibly in a diverse democracy.

Heather Fletcher

Nonpartisan

1. Policy 443 requires teachers and staff to keep information from parents and compromises students' privacy in restrooms and locker rooms. If elected, I would work to remove this policy and ensure a zero-tolerance bullying approach. Students who feel uncomfortable using the public facilities would have access to single-stall restrooms. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported, and absolutely no bullying will be tolerated.

2. Schools should maintain library collections that support learning, literacy, and positive student development. Materials that depict explicit sexual acts or other obscene content are not appropriate for school libraries and should be removed. If elected, I will advocate for transparency and parental involvement in reviewing library and

curriculum materials, ensuring that all content aligns with academic standards and supports a safe, respectful, and academically rigorous learning environment.

3. I will prioritize a classical curriculum that strengthens core academics in reading, writing, math, and science, while expanding school choice and career and technology programs so students gain real-world skills. By focusing on academic excellence, structured learning, and parental involvement, we can ensure graduates are prepared for higher education or the workforce and equipped to think critically, solve problems, and succeed in life.

4. Civic engagement is essential to uphold our constitutional republic, but schools should focus on teaching civic duty, not radical or ideological agendas. Students should learn how our government works, their rights under the Constitution, and the importance of participating in their communities. The curriculum should also develop critical thinking skills, enabling students to evaluate information for themselves rather than relying on the government to define what is "misinformation."

5. My experience as an Air Traffic Controller and Certified Facility Instructor at Joint Base Andrews taught me leadership, problem-solving, and how to apply complex policies under pressure. As a parent of three, I've volunteered as a teacher's assistant and worked in public, private, and homeschool classrooms, giving me firsthand insight into strong academics, structured learning, parental engagement, and safe schools. I am prepared to make thoughtful, results-driven decisions on the board!

6. I do not support the Maryland Blueprint because education should remain under local control. Local communities best understand their students' needs, and the Blueprint is costly with no proven results. I will prioritize strengthening academics, supporting teachers, and maintaining safe, structured schools. If cuts are needed, funding should focus on programs that directly improve student achievement and classroom learning, not ideologically driven initiatives.

7. Schools should teach classical civics, guiding students to engage respectfully with differing opinions through modeling civil dialogue, active listening, and structured discussions like debates or Socratic seminars. Students should

learn to evaluate information, distinguish fact from opinion, and think independently. Partnering with parents and providing real-world civic experiences reinforces respectful behavior and prepares students to be thoughtful, responsible citizens in a diverse society.

Rae Gallagher

Nonpartisan

1. As a current Board of Education member, I supported and upheld Policy 443 to ensure a safe, welcoming, and affirming school environment for all of our transgender and gender nonconforming students. If re-elected, I will continue to support policy 443 and defend the rights of our LGBTQ+ community.

2. During my current tenure on the Board, I advocated for updates to Policy 500 (selection of curriculum and instructional materials) as well as Policy 501 (selection of library and media materials) to ensure materials promote equity, respect, and civility among our diverse community and provide opportunities for staff and students to model cultural proficiency in every school and program. I fully support the expertise of our media specialists and our curriculum staff.

3. As a Board member and as a candidate, I have emphasized the importance of investing in the expansion of our Career Technology Education program, implementing Career Coaches at the middle and high school levels, and expanding access to equitable programming such as AP courses and dual enrollment. As a Board member, I will continue to emphasize the importance of access for all students - including those historically underrepresented - to gain access to equitable educational opportunities.

4. The FCPS social studies department offers a broad range of opportunities for civic education and engagement. As the influence of social media and AI grows, I do support continuing to implement education in which classroom teachers and media specialists emphasize the importance of utilizing critical thinking skills and strategies to "fact check" from multiple sources. These strategies should be implemented across all grade levels, starting in elementary school.

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5. I currently have two children within FCPS and being a parent while serving on the Board gives me a unique perspective. Additionally, I have over 20 years of nonprofit experience partnering with educational institutions from K-12 and universities, as well as experience writing and developing social-emotional learning curriculum for middle and high school students. As a Board member, I prioritize visiting schools and hearing directly from students and educators.

6. I fully support the tenets of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future but the funding supports have lagged behind implementation expectations. There are also core components of education - such as arts, music, physical education- even class size - that are not prioritized under the Blueprint. In order for the Blueprint to be fully successful, funding must be prioritized and local jurisdictions should be given more autonomy over implementation timelines.

7. I believe that our existing curriculum prioritizes good citizenship that offers opportunities for engagement, dialogue, and sharing of viewpoints. However, our schools must be a safe place for all students - and staff members - which means that there is accountability for dialogue that is based on hate, bias, or discriminatory language. Through structured discussion and modeling respectful listening, our educators provide environments where diverse viewpoints are welcome and heard.

Shelley L. Potter

Nonpartisan

1. I believe students should use the bathrooms, locker rooms, and play on the sports teams of their biological sex. Having optional single-use bathrooms and co-ed sports teams for those who wish to participate could help alleviate some of the current frustration. I do not agree with compelled speech (teachers and students being forced to use preferred pronouns) or withholding information from parents regarding their child in any way.

2. I believe books with sexual content have no place inside schools with the exception of high school biology class. Schools, libraries, and curriculum should focus on teaching students academics and facts, and leave ideology and religion out of instruction.

3. I think we need to focus on scientifically backed curriculum with a proven track record of success. Students need early intervention in reading and books over devices. Math should focus on fewer concepts that are taught to mastery. I wholly support expanding our career and technical education so more students can enroll each year.

4. I have not yet been able to go through all of FCPS' curriculum to see where civics education needs to be improved. However, I do think it's essential for students to have a deep understanding of our country's founding and the responsibility this places on all citizens. It is important for the school to model positive civic activity by being a force for good in their communities. Critical thinking skills and identifying factual information versus propaganda should be taught at every grade level.

5. I am an experienced educator and school leader with over 15 years of teaching and administrative experience in the United States and abroad. As a Frederick County native, I attended local public schools and hold a Master of Arts in Teaching from American University. My professional career has included teaching, administration and curriculum development roles in Montgomery County Public Schools, Washington, D.C., the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

6. No. No more taxpayer money needs to be spent on public schools. Currently, 40% of Frederick County's property taxes are funneled into the school system, and yet, our children are not succeeding. I think we need to take a close look at the budget and where money is spent and reallocate funds to better support teachers and students. I do, however, agree with increasing teacher salaries, more support in the classroom, and more planning time to help attract and retain qualified educators.

7. Good citizenship skills start at home and continue in school. As educators, we need to model respectful dialogue in and outside the classrooms both with those who share our beliefs and those who don't. Teachers, administrators and parents need to work together to hold students accountable for their behavior.

Dean Rose

Nonpartisan

1. As Chair of the Policy Committee during the review of Policy 443, I supported maintaining protections that ensure all students feel safe and respected in our schools, including transgender students. FCPS policies must comply with state and federal law while creating welcoming learning environments. I will continue supporting policies that protect student safety, dignity, and access to safe and welcoming educational spaces.

2. I do not support book bans. Schools should offer age-appropriate materials selected by educators and librarians through established review processes. If concerns arise, FCPS has a formal procedure to evaluate materials. As I have in the past, I will continue to support that process to ensure decisions are thoughtful, transparent, and educationally sound and not politically motivated. I will work with families and educators to ensure students have access to valuable media materials.

3. Preparing students for life after graduation requires strong academics and real-world opportunities. I support strengthening early literacy and math, expanding career and technical education by expanding our Career Tech Center and providing more offerings in our schools, more internships/apprenticeships with our Frederick County business partners, dual enrollment, early college, and ensuring students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed for college, careers, or military service.

4. Civics education should help students understand how our government works and how to participate responsibly in a democracy. I support strengthening instruction in history and civics while emphasizing critical thinking, media literacy, and the ability to evaluate sources so students can distinguish credible information from misinformation. Students should graduate with a strong understanding of our constitutional system and the skills to be informed citizens.

5. In addition to my personal educational experience, much of my perspective comes from four years serving on the FCPS Board of Education, including 3 years in leadership and most recently as

Board President, service on boards of child-serving nonprofits, and 13 years coaching FCPS youth. As a parent of two FCPS graduates, I understand firsthand how important strong schools and responsible leadership are for students and families. Strong schools build strong communities.

6. I support the goals of the Blueprint, particularly strengthening the teaching profession and expanding career pathways for students. At the same time, implementation must remain sustainable for local school systems. I support ongoing evaluation, transparency in funding, and flexibility to ensure the program continues to benefit students while remaining fiscally responsible. If adjustments are necessary, priority should remain on investments that directly support students and educators.

7. Schools promote good citizenship by strengthening civics education and encouraging respectful discussion of different viewpoints. Teaching students to think critically, evaluate information, and engage constructively with others helps prepare them to be responsible and informed members of society. These skills help prepare students to participate thoughtfully and responsibly. Learning how to have thoughtful discussions, even when we disagree, is an important skill for a healthy democracy.

Geoffrey Seidel

Nonpartisan

1. Policy 443 puts schools between parents and their children. The policy defaults to secrecy instead of partnership. That is a mistake. Parents come first. The standard should be simple: no secrets from parents. No girls in boys' BRs or sports. We can protect every student's dignity without cutting families out. Rebuild trust through transparency & respect. Teachers also need to understand the new directions and provisions of Policy 443. There is no negotiation or agendas. Common sense please.

2. FCPS Policy 115 requires the school system to block pornographic material on the internet, yet the district has no clear policy that explicitly prohibits pornography in the library. FCPS policy must be enforced clearly & consistently.

Protect kids, respect families, & keep politics out of the classroom. Parents want accountability, not chaos. Pornography is an addiction that negatively impacts society. There is no academic value in having pornography in the school library. Common sense please.

3. Set a knowledge-rich curriculum: require phonics-based reading, math mastery benchmarks, & frequent research-based assessments, because results matter. Expand CTC seats, paid apprenticeships, dual enrollment, & industry certs with local employers; real pathways & real paychecks. Enforce a clear code of conduct, consistent consequences, cell phone limits, & alternative placements. Developing critical thinking skills & embracing best-practices is essential. Let's send out productive adults.

4. Civics is too often missing from today's classrooms, leaving students unprepared for citizenship. Restore it with content-rich instruction grounded in founding documents, constitutional principles, & how government works. Pair it with rigorous media literacy; teach students to verify sources, weigh evidence, & spot bias. Expand debate, primary-source analysis, & real-world simulations. Less ideology, more clarity, facts, & accountability. Focus on our great country's founding principles.

5. My education & life experience taught me accountability, critical thinking, & the value of strong foundations in reading, writing, & math. I've seen what works & what fails when standards slip & parents are sidelined. I will bring a results-driven focus, clear priorities, & common-sense leadership to restore excellence, rebuild trust with families, & ensure every student graduates truly prepared for college, vocation/career, & life. I am a life-long learner, finishing my DOL degree in 2027.

6. I do not support full funding of the Blueprint. It has to be revised. Every dollar must produce measurable gains in literacy, math, & career readiness. I will demand transparent metrics, independent audits, & local flexibility so schools can meet student needs. If cuts are necessary, protect classroom instruction, early learning that works, & teacher quality. Start by trimming bureaucracy, not student opportunity. Results, not promises, must drive every decision. Focus on students first.

7. Schools should model & teach civil discourse explicitly. Start with content-rich civics, then practice structured debate where students must argue both sides, cite evidence, & listen to respond, not react. Set clear norms: respect, facts, & accountability. Train teachers to facilitate tough conversations, not avoid them. Partner with parents to reinforce shared expectations. When classrooms are orderly & standards are clear, students learn to disagree without being disagreeable. Every day.

Tyler Walker

Nonpartisan

1. Policy 443 raises important concerns about balancing student well-being and parental involvement. Every student deserves dignity and a safe environment. At the same time, parents must not be excluded in major decisions affecting their child's life. I support policies that protect all students from bullying while ensuring transparency, safeguarding private spaces, promoting fairness in sports, and reinforcing the essential role of parents in education.

2. I support age-appropriate standards. Parents should lead conversations about sensitive topics, with schools supporting in a limited role; ensuring school materials reflect community expectations and are suitable for minors. Explicit sexual content does not belong in school libraries or classrooms. I will support transparent review processes, clear guidelines, and parental involvement so families can trust what is being provided to students.

3. We must strengthen early literacy and math through early intervention and a strong focus on fundamentals. Schools should prioritize critical thinking, problem-solving, analyzing complex problems, and teaching students how to think, not what to think. Students also need accountability. I support expanding career and technical education, real-world skills, and partnerships with local businesses so graduates are prepared for college, careers, and life in a rapidly changing world.

4. This is exactly what I did in my classroom when I taught 12th Grade Gov! Civics education should focus on a strong understanding of our Constitution, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students should learn how to think critically, evaluate sources,

and distinguish fact from opinion. I support teaching students how to analyze information and engage in respectful discussion, without promoting political bias, so they are prepared to be informed, thoughtful participants.

5. My experience spans homeschooling, public, and private education, giving me a broad perspective on what works. I studied to become a teacher, taught in multiple states, and served students locally during the pandemic. Living with at-risk youth at the Milton Hershey School showed me how education and discipline can break cycles of poverty. Nearly 16 years in the Army, including teaching and leadership roles, along with years of coaching and community service, have prepared me to serve effectively.

6. The Blueprint has some worthwhile goals, particularly supporting teachers and student outcomes, but its mandates place significant financial strain on local systems. I do not support full implementation without greater flexibility and accountability. We must prioritize resources that directly impact student learning, especially early literacy and classroom support. Funding decisions should remain responsive to local needs and ensure dollars are used effectively for students.

7. Another theme I implemented in my classroom! Schools should model and teach respectful dialogue by encouraging open discussion, critical thinking, and the ability to consider different perspectives. Students should learn how to listen, support their views with evidence, and engage respectfully with others. By focusing on shared American values like responsibility and respect, without promoting political bias, we can prepare students to be thoughtful, civil participants in society.

Chad King Wilson, Sr.

Nonpartisan

1. I support Policy 443 because every student deserves to feel safe and respected. As a Board member, I will advocate for strong anti-bullying enforcement, staff training to support LGBTQIA+ students, and welcoming school environments. I support preferred names, inclusive student groups, and clear reporting systems, while also engaging families and the community to build

understanding and protect every student's dignity and safety.

2. I oppose banning books in school curricula or libraries. Public education should expose students to diverse ideas and experiences that build critical thinking and empathy. Literature can challenge students while helping them understand the world. I support a transparent review process involving educators, parents, and librarians, with decisions based on educational value and age appropriateness—not politics. Parents can guide their own children's reading without restricting access for others.

3. Preparing students for college and careers requires a strong pipeline from early learning through graduation. We must expand Universal Pre-K, well-resourced CTE programs, and partnerships with trade unions for career pathways. Equitable access to AP, dual enrollment, and career-focused courses, combined with project-based learning, critical thinking, and strong career counseling, ensures students graduate ready for higher education, careers, and long-term success.

4. FCPS is making great strides in developing critical thinking skills. This can be enhanced with more diverse offerings—hands-on research, community-based projects, and expanded courses. Prioritizing civil discourse and real-world problem-solving helps students become engaged citizens who analyze information, communicate respectfully, and contribute thoughtfully. I am committed to supporting these efforts for all.

5. I am in my first two months into a board appointment. I am also in my 19th year as a classroom teacher. I've worked closely with students, families, and colleagues, often going beyond the classroom to support academic and personal needs. As a parent, coach, and advocate, I'm committed to inclusive, equitable schools. My union leadership, bargaining, and policy experience provide practical skills for effective governance, preparing me to be a strong, student-centered voice for Frederick County.

6. I support full funding and implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which expands Pre-K, improves teacher pay, and supports students with greater needs. As a Frederick County Board of Education member, I will work with the Maryland General Assembly

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to secure resources. If changes are needed, priorities must be early childhood education, educator recruitment and retention, and direct student support, not cuts to core classroom investments.

7. Schools prepare students to be engaged citizens by fostering environments where diverse ideas are expressed and respected. Structured discussions, debate, and

collaborative problem-solving help students analyze information and engage in civil discourse. Educators and adults must model respectful communication, guiding students

through complex conversations with empathy and integrity. Prioritizing these skills helps students become thoughtful, respectful contributors to democracy and society.

BALLOT ISSUES

Maryland Question 1

Constitutional Amendment
(Ch. 155 of the 2026
Legislative Session)

**Arbitration Reform for State
Employees Act of 2026**

Providing that each budget submitted by the Governor shall include proposed expenditures necessary to implement wages, hours, fringe benefits, health benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment in each collective bargaining memorandum of understanding with State employees, whether the State and State employees reached those terms and conditions by mutual agreement or through a neutral decider's order.

**(Amending Article III of the
Maryland Constitution)**

- For the Constitutional Amendment - A vote FOR this amendment means that the Governor has to include money in the proposed State budget to pay for agreements between the State and its employees. Agreements might include changes to wages, hours, fringe benefits, health benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment. The Governor must put enough money in the State budget to cover the agreed upon pay and benefits for employees, whether those terms were negotiated or decided by a neutral decision-maker.
- Against the Constitutional Amendment - A vote AGAINST the amendment means that the law about funding agreements between the State and State employees stays the same.

Note: The text of the proposed amendments as they will appear in the constitution can be found here: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/SBE_Proposed_Constitutional_Amendment_Text.pdf The Constitution is available only in English.

Current Law: Maryland's constitution requires the Governor to present a proposed budget to the General Assembly in January each year and that the budget be balanced. The General Assembly may amend the proposed budget, spending more or less for any specific program, but it cannot increase the total expenditures above those proposed by the Governor. The budget must be finalized by the General Assembly before the end of its 90-day session, usually in early April.

The state constitution requires that the Governor's proposed budget include funds to pay state employees. That section of the constitution does not specify the costs of fringe benefits or the process for resolving labor disputes in their union contracts, both of which may affect how much money would be needed. Under current law, when the state and the labor union representing state employees reach an impasse, the only method to resolve the impasse is to employ a neutral fact-finder. Fact-finding provides the state employee union and the state (as the employer) with non-binding recommendations, which would allow the Governor to impose terms not agreed to by labor.

Proposed Change: The proposed amendment to the constitution would require that the Governor's proposed budget include sufficient funds to carry out state employee collective bargaining agreements and authorizes binding arbitration to resolve disagreements. The amendment requires that the budget proposal include a statement of changes in wages, hours, fringe benefits, health benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment of state employees. Most importantly, it specifies that binding arbitration may be used to resolve labor disputes, avoiding situations where a labor dispute is not resolved before the time that the budget must be prepared. As noted above, this does not change the General Assembly's power to alter

the amounts proposed by the Governor.

Origin of the Ballot Question: The Legislature passed bills (SB28/HB604) to change the laws that apply to the state employee labor agreements. The proposed amendment to the constitution was included to provide authority for binding arbitration when the state and its employees cannot agree on wages, benefits, and other terms of a labor agreement. Both SB 28 and HB 604 included provisions describing how an arbitrator would be selected, and the deadline by which the neutral arbitrator would step in. The constitutional amendment was included in that bill to ensure that the Governor's budget proposal would include the costs of state employee labor agreements, including those reached through binding arbitration.

Arguments FOR the Amendment:

- Ensures that the Governor's budget includes the funds necessary to cover the terms and conditions agreed to in all labor agreements with state employees.
- Aligns state employment practices with other Maryland public and private employers that use binding arbitration with enforceable timelines for negotiations.
- Demonstrates Maryland's commitment to fair labor practices by requiring the Governor to submit a balanced budget that covers the full costs of labor agreements.
- Could make employment in Maryland competitive and attractive to individuals who are considering working in state government.

**Arguments AGAINST
the Amendment:**

- If binding arbitration is used, there is a risk that an arbitrator would award wages and benefits more expensive than the state can afford, leading the General Assembly to impose cuts in staffing or other budget items.
- Although the bill proposing this amendment included a specific process for selecting a neutral arbitrator, those details are not

included in the constitutional amendment itself. This means that the legislature could in the future, without a vote of approval by the voters, change that process to make it less fair.

A Majority Vote FOR

Question 1 would amend the Maryland constitution to require that the Governor's budget proposal include enough money to carry out state employee labor agreements and that conflicts in state employee labor negotiations be resolved through binding arbitration.

A Majority Vote AGAINST

Question 1 means that the Maryland constitution would not be amended and current law would be unchanged. That is, binding arbitration would not be authorized in the constitution as a method to resolve conflicts in labor negotiations. A neutral fact-finder would continue to be used to provide non-binding recommendations to the state employee union and the state (as the employer), and the Governor would continue to be able to impose terms not agreed to by labor.

Maryland Question 2

Constitutional Amendment
(Ch. 878 of the 2026
Legislative Session)

**Temporary Appointments on the
Commission on Judicial Disabilities**

Authorizing temporary substitute appointments to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities when a member is recused or disqualified, or when a member's term expires. In these situations, the Commission Chair may recall a former member of the Commission, or the Governor, at the request of the Commission Chair, may appoint a temporary substitute member or extend the term of a current member until a permanent replacement is appointed. Only individuals who meet the constitutional eligibility requirements may be recalled or appointed to the Commission.

(Amending Article IV of the Maryland Constitution)

- For the Constitutional Amendment - A vote FOR this amendment means that temporary appointments to the Commission are allowed if a member is recused, disqualified, or if a member's term ends without a replacement. The Commission Chair can temporarily fill an opening on the Commission with a former member. The Governor can, at the request of the Commission Chair, pick a temporary substitute to fill an opening on the Commission or extend the term of a current member until a replacement is appointed. Only individuals who meet the constitutional eligibility requirements may be recalled or appointed to the Commission.
- Against the Constitutional Amendment - A vote AGAINST the amendment means that current membership rules for the Commission stay the same. Temporary appointments are not allowed if a member is recused, disqualified, or if a member's term ends.

Note: The text of the proposed amendments as they will appear in the constitution can be found here: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/SBE_Proposed_Constitutional_Amendment_Text.pdf The Constitution is available only in English.

Current Law: The Maryland constitution establishes an 11-member Commission on Judicial Disabilities to investigate complaints against judges in the State courts and recommend disciplinary action to the Supreme Court of Maryland, as appropriate. The Commission is composed of three sitting judges, three lawyers licensed to practice in Maryland, and five Maryland residents who are neither a judge nor an attorney. Members serve four-year terms and may not serve for more than two terms. If a member begins serving after being appointed to fill a vacancy, they may serve not more than a total of ten years. Automatic vacancies occur when a member is no longer a Maryland resident or no longer a judge or member of the State Bar, or an attorney is appointed to become a judge. Any vacancy on the Commission must be filled for the unexpired term by the Governor in the same manner as other appointments to the

Commission and subject to the same qualifications that were applicable to the person causing the vacancy.

Proposed Change:

This amendment would change the process for filling vacancies, including when members excuse themselves from participating in deciding a complaint before the commission (called "recusal"). The amendment would authorize the Chair of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities to (1) recall a former member to serve as a temporary substitute member or (2) request that the Governor appoint a temporary substitute member or extend a current member's term. The Governor may appoint a temporary substitute member for a specified period of time or extend a current member's term until a replacement is appointed. Any temporary substitute member (a) must have the same qualifications that were applicable to the member for whom the substitute is temporarily appointed, (b) may not have been rejected by the Senate for appointment to the commission, and (c) if the member is a judge or an attorney, must be a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar.

Origin of the Ballot Question:

Legislation to authorize additional methods of filling vacancies on the commission was enacted by the Legislature in 2025 (SB619 & HB788). In 2026, the General Assembly modified the proposed amendment in a bill (SB933) by adding a provision prohibiting the selection of a substitute member who had been previously rejected by the Senate for appointment to the Commission.

Arguments FOR the Amendment:

- A back-up method for filling vacancies will allow the Commission to continue its important work to investigate and resolve matters involving complaints against judges and, thereby, prevent backlogs. Unexpected vacancies interfere with the Commission's ability to do its work because the appointment process is often slow. The General Assembly is in session for three months each year and the Governor is required to appoint a large number of officials.
- The amendment is very limited. The Chair of the Commission could only recall to service someone who has already gone through the approval process, and the Governor's extension of a sitting member's term or appointment of another

member would still be subject to the maximum 10-year term limit set for members.

Arguments AGAINST the Amendment:

- Appointment of members of a commission that has the power to recommend that a judge be removed from office should require action by the Governor and the State Senate, rather than allowing the unelected Chair of the Commission to fill a vacancy.
- The Commission does not need all 11 members to take action as the constitution allows it to act with just a majority of its members participating. For example, five members could be excluded from participating and the remaining six could still consider and resolve a complaint.
- The amendment does not have a fixed date or deadline by which an appointment must occur, so a "temporary" appointment could be for a long time. This would allow the Governor to avoid Senate confirmation by making "temporary" appointments. Similarly, if the Senate refused to consider a replacement, a "temporary" appointment could extend as long as a permanent term.

A Majority Vote FOR Question 2 means the constitution will be amended to allow the Chair of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities to fill temporary vacancies by: 1) recalling a former member to serve; 2) requesting that the Governor extend the term of a member of the Commission; or 3) requesting that the Governor appoint someone to serve temporarily.

A Majority Vote AGAINST Question 2

means the current system will continue. That is, when there is a vacancy on the Commission on Judicial Disabilities, only the Governor can fill that vacancy by appointment and approval of the Senate.

Maryland Question 3

Constitutional Amendment

(Ch. 881 of the 2026 Legislative Session (PDF))

Electoral Districts – General Assembly and Congressional Representatives

FOR the purpose of clarifying that certain requirements apply only to districts for the election of members of the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates; authorizing

the General Assembly to grant original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of Maryland to review the congressional districting plan of the State; and providing that nothing in the Maryland Constitution provides applicable criteria for the boundaries of a congressional districting plan.

(Amending Article III of the Maryland Constitution)

- For the Constitutional Amendment
- Against the Constitutional Amendment

NOTE: The language above is what you will see on your ballot. The text of the constitution showing the change that would be made by the amendment is displayed here: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/SBE_Proposed_Constitutional_Amendment_Text.pdf The Constitution is available only in English.

Current Law: The Maryland Constitution sets criteria for drawing state legislative districts but not for drawing congressional districts. In 2022, the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County held that the same criteria used for state legislative districts should be applied to congressional district boundaries (Szeliga v. Lamone and Parrott v. Lamone). Following that decision, the current congressional district boundaries were approved.

Proposed Change: The proposed amendment would specify that the Maryland Constitution does not provide criteria to redraw congressional district boundaries for candidates elected to the US House of Representatives. The amendment does not replace these criteria with a new set of standards. It also provides that any challenge to redrawn congressional district boundaries would go immediately to the state Supreme Court. If voters approve it, the amendment would not apply before the 2028 election.

Origin of the Question: Historically, congressional districts are redrawn only following the U.S. Census every 10 years. In 2026, however, some states redrew their congressional district lines to improve the odds that one political party would win in more districts. This is called partisan gerrymandering. The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to block these partisan actions.

Under Maryland's current congressional map, the state sends seven Democrats and one Republican to the U.S. House of

Representatives. The effect of the constitutional amendment would be to allow the drawing of a map that could potentially benefit one party more than the other, with faster resolution of court challenges to any re-drawn maps.

Arguments in Favor:

- The U.S. Supreme Court has held that partisan gerrymandering is legal. (Rucho v Common Cause (2019))
- When states change their congressional districts, it affects the balance of power in the U.S. Congress. If one state gerrymanders to benefit one party in Congress, other states feel they should have the ability to respond.

Arguments Against:

- Voters should choose their representatives by voting, rather than politicians drawing lines that give one party's candidates an advantage.
- While the amendment specifically rejects using criteria from the Maryland Constitution to draw congressional boundaries, it does not provide replacement criteria. Without these criteria, maps would not be held to any standards.
- The passage of this amendment would increase the chance of an unfair map being drawn and voters in a minority party could lose representation.

A Majority Vote FOR the amendment means that the criteria

from the Maryland Constitution for drawing state senate and delegate districts, or any other provision of the Maryland Constitution, will not be used for drawing congressional district lines and that any challenges to the new congressional district lines will immediately go to the state Supreme Court rather than to the Circuit Court.

A Majority Vote AGAINST the amendment means that the criteria established in the Maryland Constitution for drawing state senate and delegate districts would continue to be used to draw congressional district lines.

Frederick County Question A

Charter Amendment Term limits for the County Council and County Executive

This Charter Amendment would prohibit a County Council member from serving more than three terms in their lifetime and prohibit the County Executive from serving more than two terms in their lifetime.

Argument For the Charter Amendment

A vote for the charter amendment would limit a County Council member from serving more than three terms and a County Executive from serving more than two terms.

Argument Against the Charter Amendment

A vote against the Charter Amendment would continue to permit a County Council member to serve no more than three consecutive terms, and a County Executive from serving more than two consecutive terms.

Yes = For the Measure

No = Against the Measure



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We hope that you have found the Voters' Guide helpful in selecting candidates for this election. We invite you to support our efforts to provide more citizens with information about candidates and the election process. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Frederick County Education Fund.

\$150__ \$100__ \$75__ \$50__ \$25__ other__

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P.O. Box 9
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We invite you to be a part of making our communities **FAIR, VIBRANT, and STRONG!**

Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our state. Membership in the League is open to women and men of all ages. With more than 103 years of experience, local Leagues in 16 of Maryland's counties and in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

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