

*The Montgomery County Council of PTAs
presents:*

*A Community-Focused,
Public Education-Oriented*



Inside are positions on issues pertaining to Montgomery County Public Schools by candidates for the following political offices:

- *Montgomery County Executive*
- *Montgomery County Council,*
- *Montgomery County Board of Education*
- Maryland State Senator
- Maryland State Delegate

Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

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Instructions: Please fill out this form by March 13, 2018 for inclusion in the 2018 MCCPTA Guide for Voters. E-mail it to: Questionnaire2018@mccpta.org
* Candidates for State office, fill out 1.1-1.4; 2.2-2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.2; 4.4; 5.2; 6.1
* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Berliner, Roger

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: roger@berlinerformontgomery.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 Yes. Pre-K is critical to a child's development to providing a level playing field for every child. It is perhaps the most important thing we can do to start closing the achievement gap. Expansion of pre-k should be a national priority & a state priori

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 The SAGs ensure we do not issue more bonds than we can afford in debt service which crowds out operating budget priorities like the MCPS operating budget & health & human services for families and children. Everything is interrelated. Cap. & op.budgets should not be pitted against each other -both are critical components of a successful school system

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I would. Given the rise in student enrollment and the urgent need for more capacity, we need the State to pay more for the cost of new school construction. I am in favor of incentives to drive greater state/local collaboration, assuming these incentives do not detract from local control of our school system

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 We must insist on cultural proficiency for all school staff in order to ensure the most relevant and rigorous curriculum choices are available to all students. Equity will only be achieved when each and every student is on a path to success and our more a cademically challenging program enrollments reflect the diversity of the student body.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Communicating with parents/caregivers is essential to student success. Translation services already provided in many languages is important, but MCPS staff must reflect our student population & be trained in cultural proficiencies in order to effectively communicate with parent/caregivers

4. Health and School Climate

Answers



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Berliner, Roger

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| <p>4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is</p> <p>4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?</p> <p>4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?</p> <p>4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.</p> | <p>4.1 Every student must be respected, valued & feel safe at school & in our county. County Govt. can help create such a culture through education campaigns, community partnerships, inclusive policies, funding for SROs in every HS and MS, & a police force trained in cultural competency & that has zero tolerance for acts of hate, harassment, assault, or bullying.</p> <p>4.2 Regulations should be science-based and used to protect the physical and mental health and wellness of those in a school building. That is the superintendent's and BOE's job and as county executive, I would offer whatever support is requested.</p> <p>4.3 Yes. One hopes it would result in better selection and quality of food and better nutrition. Programs around the country are working toward this same goal</p> <p>4.4 I have long been vocal about the need for better counselor to student ratios. The mental, emotional, & academic pressures on our kids is ever increasing - we need to provide safe spaces and trusted adults where they can seek refuge and help. Mental health services must be adequately funded outside of the school environment – for students and their families.</p> |
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5. Safety

Answers

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| <p>5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments</p> <p>5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?</p> | <p>5.1 I know that Chief Manger and his department are 100% committed to assisting MCPS to create the safest environment possible for our students, teachers and staff. If we are not providing the very best SROs we can, then the selection process needs to be examined. If elected county executive, I would assemble all stakeholders to discuss improvements if needed</p> <p>5.2 [No response requested]</p> |
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6. Growth

Answers

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| <p>6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?</p> <p>6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?</p> <p>6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?</p> | <p>6.1 We must ensure the capacity keeps pace with growth of student population. I hope MCPS will explore creative, innovative, affordable options for increasing capacity. The Council has raised various taxes to generate significant new revenues for school capacity & increased funding recently to reduce class size. I was proud to support those efforts</p> <p>6.2 We should always obtain new land for schools via the development process whenever possible & warranted. I worked very closely with MCCPTA reps to ensure master plan language reflects this goal</p> <p>6.3 I actually proposed establishing a school land acquisition fund which would be funded by a portion of development's school impact tax fees. The Board of Ed rejected this idea and did not want funds set aside for this purpose. It was very disappointing a</p> |
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Candidate: Blair, David



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Blair, David

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: davidb@blairformontgomery.com / Phone: 2404283753 / Website: BlairForMontgomery.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 As County Executive, I will draw upon public and private resources to secure funding to make universal pre-K a reality, starting with Title I schools. Ideally, funding should be a state and county collaboration, but we must act on this now to address the

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 I don't support this move because we have not kept up with MCPS construction needs. School construction should be a top priority when assessing the capital improvement budget to address the overcrowding in our schools. Through my jobs plan, I will expand our tax base which will create new revenues.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I don't support this move because we have not kept up with MCPS construction needs. School construction should be a top priority when assessing the capital improvement budget to address the overcrowding in our schools. Through my jobs plan, I will expand our tax base which will create new revenues.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 I want to focus on early childhood learning and ensure that every student graduates career or college ready. This requires ensuring MCPS has adequate support staff. I'll work with MCPS to provide early intervention and remedial course work to students at risk of falling short of readiness standards.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 I believe that MCPS makes communication with students and families a priority and we can do more by expanding Linkages to Learning beyond 29 schools. As County Executive, I will engage parents in school planning and leadership to give them more equal representation on school governing bodies.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Blair, David

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is	4.1 Everyone should feel safe in his or her community. As County Executive, I'll expand the Cyber Civility Task Force to include designated social workers that will work closely with parents, students and staff on developing social media controls to monitor sites where MCPS students are
4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2 The county government and MCPS need to focus on increasing access to physical and mental health & wellness care among students and teachers. I'm a big proponent of telemedicine in our schools. It can expand access to health care using technology to diagnose medical problems remotely.
4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?	4.3 Part of my platform is to make better use of our county's Agricultural Reserve and focus on a buy local program. This platform should extend into the school system to educate our children about supporting a healthy local food system and our local agriculture.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 I'll work with MCPS to create innovative lesson plans to address mental health issues in our classrooms and ensure all students are aware of help available. I'll put telemedicine in our schools, so kids can access health and mental health services and have a safe place to report abuse or neglect.

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments	5.1 When it comes to school safety and protecting our kids, we can always do more. I'll lobby for state "school safety grants" to fund school resource officers, and find money in our budget if funding never materializes. Incentives should include flexible work hours, better training and appreciation.
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1 As County Executive, I will ensure Montgomery County is getting its fair share of funding from Annapolis, so we can build schools to relieve overcrowding. I'll also grow our economy to create jobs and increase revenues to fund school construction projects and MCPS teachers to keep class sizes small.
6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2 Part of the reason why I am running for County Executive is that we do a poor job of planning in the county. I will review our planning process to ensure we have a proactive, transparent planning process that aims to lessen the burden on our infrastructure
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 We need to work collaboratively with developers to find localized solutions that increase school construction options. This means being more creative in our approach. I would consider a dedicated fund for school land acquisition.

Candidate: Elrich, Marc



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Elrich, Marc

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: info@marcelrich.org / Phone: 3012873002 / Website: www.marcelrich.org

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 I'd try to reach 2-4 year olds: the earlier the better. It's a statewide issue but counties will contribute. We should act regardless of state funding because the outcomes justify it. I'd look at increased revenues from casinos, combined reporting, and ex

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 We should fully fund the MCPS capital requests. I've proposed taking money from Montrose Parkway to fund schools this year. I'll look at increasing school impact fees and increasing facility payments when schools are over capacity. We shouldn't approve development where we can't fund the schools.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I'm interested in innovative design & construction & how others address construction codes. I'd ensure short-term savings don't increase long-term maintenance costs. Other systems build standardized schools - we don't & that costs more. We should not charge permitting fees for our own buildings.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Schools have to match funding to the needs of the students. I'm hoping to introduce a racial equity lens to evaluate how the county spends operating and capital dollars and would want MCPS to join us. We have to consciously evaluate how our decisions impact those affected by them.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 We may rely too much on sending flyers home without certainty that parents can read or students can interpret. We need more personal contact - calls at the least, and home visits for important topics. Community schools may be best-suited to build links and engage families and students.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 I'd ensure teachers have the skills to foster a positive school climate. I also have a plan to diversify the workforce by implementing a pipeline from middle school to the Universities at Shady Grove, which would help make our teaching and counseling staff more reflective of the student population.



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Elrich, Marc

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| 4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? | 4.2 Regulations and policies should be research-based or science-based to the extent possible. Once we “know” something, our policies have to embody that. Students’ environments shouldn’t expose them to health risks and should be supportive of their mental health and physical wellness. |
| 4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS’ Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? | 4.3 Students should be educated about the relationship of food to their health and wellness. School meals should be a lot healthier than they are (when I taught, there was way too much sugar and starch) and I’d like to see a conscious policy of using locally sourced food when possible. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. | 4.4 I’m very concerned about the inadequate number of counselors and school psychologists. Their caseloads are far too large, and they don’t have time to identify, let alone work with, all the students who have needs. We need to see more funding in the school budget to support these positions. |

5. Safety	Answers
5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments	5.1 I think communication and an understanding of their respective roles has improved. Officers now are more focused on building trust and relationships with students than they were. I think a good interview process - so we can find officers who want this assignment - is more important than incentives.
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth	Answers
6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1 Class size isn’t small. I would strictly tie growth to the ability to provide classrooms without penalizing schools that have long been in the queue (as the Bethesda placeholder will do). I’d tighten standards for defining overcrowding and I’d increase impact fees to fully cover needed classrooms.
6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2 Yes, school land should be a top amenity. What we adopted is weaker than earlier policies - e.g., White Flint 1 actually designated a school site. The “new” policy doesn’t guarantee we get a site; by the time a project triggers a capacity need, the projec
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 Yes. I would also revise cluster and individual school capacity definitions (120% of capacity is too high), require payments whenever schools cross 100% of capacity, and set impact fees at 100% of school cost as built out (including desks, finishes, books

Candidate: Ficker, Robin



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Ficker, Robin

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: robinficker@msn.com / Phone: 3016521500 / Website: www.robindeliversforyou.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 Yes. This is a state-county issue. The money should come from both. But, with the county running a deficit, something will have to be cut. What? County's return on its reserve, health benefit and pension returns has been miserable with the stock make

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 The MoCo delegation has NOT been doing its job with only 12% of state construction funds for our 18% of students. We need our fair share. Debt service is already the third largest part of the county budget.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Sure, but first MoCo must get its fair share of state school construction money. 12% for our 18% of state students is not enough.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Supplement with Saturday and summer classes for those who need extra help. Challenge all children to achieve above their comfort zone.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Have good well-paid teachers who are proficient at communicating with students and families.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 I am the only candidate for County Executive who has defended more than one case in Maryland Courts as a defense attorney and I have defended 35,000+ since 1972. How can these other people be serious about individual rights with no experience in Court?



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Ficker, Robin

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2 I would like to see every student run or walk a mile every school day for health and wellness. Too much sitting. Digital access in schools can be limited technically. Block the porn sites.
4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?	4.3 Diet at the schools can be affected by cafeteria menu choices and elimination of junk food dispensers. An active physical education program during and after school will help alot. Inculcate nutrition education into such activities.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 Strong. But reducing class size is my top priority.

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments	5.1 Our police department knows best how to recruit and train officers. I'd let them do their jobs. Monitor the cameras in schools.
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuing capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1 Our legislators are getting only 12% of state school construction dollars for 18% of the state's students. They seem more interested in securing money for Baltimore City's schools than Montgomery's. They need to ensure we get our fair share as I shall do.
6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2 Yes. I recently sat with a citizens panel looking at school site choices in Silver Spring-Takoma Park. Having citizens adivsory groups who know the area best is a good idea.
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 Yes.

Candidate: Frick, Bill



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Frick, Bill

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: info@billfrick.com / Phone: 2404799293 / Website: www.billfrick.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1



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 * Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Frick, Bill

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in 4.2 areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? 4.3

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. 4.4

5. Safety Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments 5.1

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? 5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? 6.1

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? 6.2

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? 6.3

Candidate: Krasnow, Rose



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Krasnow, Rose

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: rose@rosekrasnow.com / Phone: 2405500472 / Website: www.rosekrasnow.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 Yes, I do support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents, although given the costs, it will need to be phased in over a period of time, as was done with all-day kindergarten. I would fund it through a combination of

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 I have said to many that education is my number one priority. I have also said that budgets are not just about money, but about community priorities. The importance of keeping the county's AAA bond rating cannot be overstated, since it keeps our cost of borrowing as low as possible, so the county does need to trim its appetite for new debt. Having said that, funding the projects needed to ensure the best teaching environment for our children should be the highest county priority. I would look at deferring other CIP projects rather than scaling back essential school construction projects.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Yes, it is vital to find new ways to reduce the cost per pupil of building new or replacement school facilities. As an urban planner, we looked for ways to reduce costs such as co-locating schools and parks so that athletic and playground facilities could be shared. We also explored converting existing, unused office space into needed school facilities, particularly at a time when tracts of land large enough for schools are increasingly unavailable or expensive. The state should reward such efforts, since Montgomery County does not receive its fair share of construction dollars from the state.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Equity in education means that personal or social circumstances such as gender, ethnic origin or family background, are not obstacles to achieving educational potential (fairness) and that that all individuals reach at least a basic minimum level of skills. One measure I would support is to make funding strategies responsive to students' and schools' needs. Funding strategies should guarantee access to quality early childhood education and care, especially for disadvantaged families. We should use funding strategies, such as weighted funding formulas, that take into consideration



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Krasnow, Rose

that the instructional costs for disadvantaged students are usually higher. In addition, it is important to balance decentralization/local autonomy with resource accountability to ensure support to the most disadvantaged students and schools. I am sure there are a number of other measures that could help achieve this policy objective, and I will work our school board and MCPS administration to be successful regarding achieving success for all of our children.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 As our county demographics have changed, our means of communication must also change. Many parents from other countries may not be fluent in English, so it is important that we translate essential information to help these parents be aware of with what is going on in their children's school. We must also recognize that many of our lower income residents may be holding down more than one job, making them unable to attend events such as back-to-school night. Parental involvement is very important to a child's success, so I would look for ways to use new technologies to make sure we are reaching every parent.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?

4.2

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?

4.3

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.

4.4

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments

5.1 My observation is the MCP and MCPS work well together, and have a common goal of keeping students safe on campus. Recent events have increased the necessity for enhancing that coordination, and MCP has been responsive to reallocating more resources as the situation warrants. As for getting the best officers for Security Resource Officers, I would have to get recommendations from the police chief and the school superintendent before making any decision on that issue.

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?

5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?

6.1 As I have said many times, education funding for the CIP would be my highest priority. I am committed to doing everything possible to make sure we provide sufficient funds to meet MCPS construction needs. However, we must look at how we are projecting student growth to ensure our methodology is as accurate as possible. We must consider changing school boundaries, even though that is always unpopular. We must also look at more cost efficient ways to provide new classrooms. For example, it would seem logical to have a template for elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, so that we don't have to spend so much on design costs every



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Krasnow, Rose	
	time we build a new school.
6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 Yes. When Montgomery County was primarily greenfield development, we could often get developers to give us enough land for a school. Today, any available land that remains has become very expensive. The school system has already cut back on the amount of

Candidate: Leventhal, George L.



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Leventhal, George L.

Office: County Executive District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: info@georgeleventhal.com / Phone: 3015804517 / Website: www.georgeleventhal.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 Universal prekindergarten for every family who wishes to use it is a top priority. If I am elected County Executive I will fight in Annapolis for an increase in the tax on table games to use those funds as a protected funding stream for pre-k.

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 Our school have great capital needs. I will advocate heavily at the state level for the share of funds Montgomery County deserves. I will develop magnet/ language programs at most schools to help draw students from over-capacity schools to schools with more classroom space and excellent programming.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Yes. As County Executive, I will be a strong advocate for our schools and will ensure that the Governor, Senate, General Assembly fully understand our needs. I have decades of good and close relationships with legislators, and will work to build coalitions with other counties.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 I will pursue radical inclusion when it comes to our public schools. I will exert positive pressure on the Superintendent and School Board to expand choice and language programs at sites throughout our county and ensure that any child who wants to pursue rigorous coursework can do so at any school.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Our schools need to make sure that they are listening to the community and reaching out to families in their native languages. Active engagement with community groups like Parent Teacher Associations should have the highest priority.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 We must demonstrate our commitment to inclusion in all our programs and lead by example. We must recruit more employees with language skills to increase communications with non-English-speaking parents. We need to promote an active dialogue between the school system and our diverse



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Leventhal, George L.

communities

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?

4.2 The health and well-being of our students must be assured. In areas of emerging concern, like digital safety and WiFi exposure, school standards and regulations must be developed in close consultation with the community to ensure that they reflect the needs and values of those we serve.

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?

4.3 It is difficult to overstate the importance of nutrition and health, and these topics should be fully integrated into the curricula. The classroom lessons must be reinforced and supported by the policies and practices of the Food and Nutrition Division.

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.

4.4 Mental health needs are as important as any other health need, and counseling services should be available to all who need them. When I established the Montgomery Cares program, I made certain that it included services for behavioral health. We need more mental health services in our schools.

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments

5.1 We must increase our efforts to ensure that all students and school personnel are safe and secure. This includes security staff reflective of our county's demographics. We cannot compromise on the safety of our students and teachers.

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?

5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?

6.1 We must keep pace growing enrollments and address our aging infrastructure with new buildings. Leased space and conversion of vacant offices to classrooms can alleviate short term crowding. When necessary, I would encourage the Board to look carefully at boundary changes to prevent overcrowding

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?

6.2 Development has significant impacts on the community, placing increased demands on local school and other public amenities. We must make school land and construction needs an integral part of any development plan.

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?

6.3 Growth and development enrich our county, but they also have costs that are borne by the community as a whole. It is entirely reasonable for land developers to help finance the infrastructure needs of the new communities they create.