

*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

**MCCPTA**

*everychild.onevoice.*

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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: Amatetti, Ed**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 002

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [eamatetti@comcast.net](mailto:eamatetti@comcast.net) / Phone: 3019266336

### 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 strongly support early childhood education. One way to maximize access to all families quickly is to contract with private enterprises already engaged in early education.

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 recommendation to reduce CIP 11% was necessary given our exploding debt levels and revenue shortfalls. The only way to satisfy future capital improvement needs is by taking steps to expand our economy and commercial tax base, and control costs -- not to pretend we have money we don't have.

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 Our construction and maintenance backlog is appalling. I am in favor of new approaches including: design and site flexibility; relaxing prevailing wages and environmental mandates that increase costs upwards of 30% (OLO '17 report);

### 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 School districts across the country are making enormous progress in this regard. Like them, I would promote public charter schools and school choice to increase access to high performing programs, quickly reduce the achievement gap, get schools built, and promote innovation.

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

3.2 #1) Training teachers (and giving them the time) to increase interaction with parents and students in order to improve academic performance; and #2) improve communication and interdictions in the areas of mental health (especially depression), drugs, and family-related issues that may arise.

### 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 As a teacher in minority-majority schools, I always fostered a positive climate of respect and generosity toward others, and would be committed to this as Council member.



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Amatetti, Ed

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 In the areas of physical and mental health, and digital safety continued discussions among MCPS and experts is the best approach versus hard-fast regulations. For WiFi, I am against cell towers on or adjacent to school property.  |
| 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 MCPS has been effectively integrating health and nutrition in curriculum for years. I did it as a science teacher. We should endeavor to provide healthy food choices to students and encourage better nutrition.   |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 This is a high priority for me and a critical area for adolescents and teens. It needs to be addressed by encouraging better choices with respect to sex, drugs and friendships, addressing bullying and discipline, and through counseling and communication between school staff and students/families. |

### 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 This will be a high priority area. I do not believe Montgomery County is doing nearly enough to promote safety in schools. I will seek a review to find disconnects. Although not an expert, I believe good compensation and providing the tools to create a safe environment will support recruitment. |
| 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 School capacity has not kept up with enrollment nine of the last 10 years, increasing class sizes and the number of portables. I will work to reduce school construction costs and end the county's economic underperformance so we can again afford to meet capacity needs |
| 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 The Council was right to require developmen plans to consider the impact on schools capacity. Looking the the future, we have to revist our assumptions on the amount of land a school needs, amount of non classroom space in schools, and the per square foo              |
| 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 We need to do much more to ensure adequate school facilities going forward. I will be interested in considering many options including: lower cost school construction, reducing the amount of land for some schools, converting existing buildings as schools              |

### Candidate: Banach, Richard



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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: Banach, Richard**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [richardbanach@go.rmc.edu](mailto:richardbanach@go.rmc.edu) / Phone: 3017060043

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Banach, Richard

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

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: Bennett, Tiquia J.





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Bennett, Tiquia J.**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 002

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [StrongerFamilies208@gmail.com](mailto:StrongerFamilies208@gmail.com) / Phone: 2404984167

### 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

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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Bennett, Tiquia J.

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: Cook, Bill



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Cook, Bill**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [wmcook@gmail.com](mailto:wmcook@gmail.com) / Phone: 6125849293

### 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.*

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1.2 [No response requested]

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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.*

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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]

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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Cook, Bill

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

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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: Ferleman, Tom



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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: Ferleman, Tom**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 002

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [thomas@ferleman.com](mailto:thomas@ferleman.com) / Phone: 2406865819

### 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 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: Ferleman, Tom

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: Fosselman, Pete



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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: Fosselman, Pete**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [pete@petefosselman.com](mailto:pete@petefosselman.com) / Phone: 3015240645

### 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. There is a new transportation formula that could be implemented for education costs. It divides the total cost of improvements, based on land use type, and requires payment upfront from builders. Also receive some funding if sponsored by private orga

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 Yes, we were in jeopardy of losing our AAA Bond Rating. Paying \$375M annually in interest alone. I do not support having the difference made up on the backs of the schools. Our State Delegation must fight harder in Annapolis for our fair share of dollars and County must help them lobby.

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 noted in Question 1.3.

### 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 I support Cultural Competency which occurs when education effectively delivers services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of students. Every child has unique needs, both culturally and other hurdles as they mature.

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

3.2 Ensure communicating with parents in their native languages and encourage participation with parent-teacher events. Inform parents immediately of any potential issues a student may be having.

### 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 School policies should be inclusive. See Question 3.1.





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Fosselman, Pete

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 Science-based regulations should be implemented to protect the physical and mental health and wellness of those in a school building. As a Council Member, I would offer support to the BOE and Superintendent if requested.   |
| 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 Yes. Rise in childhood obesity and diagnosis of diabetes. Not all students have parents present to prepare their meals or guide eating habits; and in some cases, afford meals. Nutritional information will help parents and kids make healthier choices.                                 |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 Bullying, increase in pressures to succeed, domestic violence and unstable homes put the mental health of our students at risk. I am absolutely committed to ensuring access to mental health services for all MCPS students which would include more school psychologists and counselors. |

### 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 Negative relationship. Security Resource Officers play a vital role in keeping schools safe. Their efforts are often hindered. Officers should be treated as MCPS staff and included in decision making. Flexible schedules and adequate benefits as well. |
| 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 noted in Question 1.3, this formula should be implemented for school funding in lieu of the existing impact fees. District 1 is in dire need of adequate funding for operating expenses to hire additional teachers, psychologist, classroom technology and supplies to keep pace with growth. |
| 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 Each cluster's needs should be weighed carefully and during the land use approval process, potential school sites should be identified if the need is present, or future need is perceived, in a cluster.   |
| 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, the cost should be shared by the developers in a master plan area as noted in Question 1.3. Process is fair and funds for construction are collected at the time of permitting; not years later when it's too late to accommodate the growth.  |

### Candidate: Friedson, Andrew





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Friedson, Andrew**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@andrewfriedson.com](mailto:info@andrewfriedson.com) / Phone:

### 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 strongly support early childhood education expansion and Universal Pre-K. It requires both the county and state because it's a social justice and regional competitiveness issue. I've seen the challenges for at-risk youth with 51% MCPS students not Ki

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 School overcrowding is a top concern for D1 voters and will be a top priority for me on the Council. As a senior advisor to the BPW that oversees Maryland's school construction program I will push to prioritize it in the budget and advocate for more state investment. It won't take a backseat.

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 The only way to meet our growing school construction needs is by prioritizing, innovating, and growing the tax base. I support any and all efforts to maximize opportunities to leverage state and federal dollars to meet our large needs. I'm running to provide the new ideas and new leadership we need.

### 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 have a legal, moral and social responsibility to ensure every child in MCPS receives high quality instruction. We need to keep class sizes down to identify challenges as they occur and ensure that every MCPS student has access to testing and sufficient programs to meet their unique needs.

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

3.2 Communication is key. In every role I've been in, I've pushed for more proactive, transparent and accessible communication so public agencies could be more efficient, effective and accountable. That's the same expectation for MCPS – both in communicating with students and with parents 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 Cultural sensitivity and tolerance must extend beyond schools as the fabric of our community. Parents, community leaders and elected officials must set the example. I've focused on this in several past roles including interfaith



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Friedson, Andrew**

efforts on the national board of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

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 Children today face new risks and we need to provide them with new protection. We can't prevent all danger but thoughtful regulations can help mitigate those risks including physical and mental health & wellness, 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 Yes, health and nutrition can and should be better integrated. Educating children on healthy eating habits should be a lifelong effort that will help them and society. That starts with providing healthier eating options for school breakfast and lunch. Studies show this helps narrow the achievement gap.

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

4.4 My family is actively involved in mental health programming for students because we've seen the devastating consequences when services weren't available when they were desperately needed. I'm as deeply committed as I always have been to providing mental health and counseling services.

### 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 Successful community policing is needed to keep our communities safe, and that begins with building trust between young people and officers. Regrettably, our schools must be protected by the very best school resources possible and I will ensure that we work together with MCPS & MCPD to ensure that.

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 Easing the Squeeze of school overcrowding is a top priority of mine. We must ensure that our growth is managed and that school construction is prioritized as part of the planning process. My background reviewing Maryland's public school construction program positions make me an effective advocate.

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 Where land is needed for schools, it should be a priority of the developer review process to acquire through dedication.

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

**Candidate: Graney, Jay**



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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: Graney, Jay**

**Office:** County Council **District:** Councilmanic District 004

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [jaygraney1223@gmail.com](mailto:jaygraney1223@gmail.com) / Phone: 3017745550

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Graney, Jay

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

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: Gutierrez, Ana Sol



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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: Gutierrez, Ana Sol**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [asolgut2@gmail.com](mailto:asolgut2@gmail.com) / Phone: 3017180707

### 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 ABSOLUTELY. State funding should provide 75 to 80% of early childhood increased funding. According to Kirwan Commission recommendations, greatly increased state funding for education will be targeted to early childhood education. I support the rest of th

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 believe that SA guidelines should be respected and reviewed annually. However, they provide a good guideline for indebtness limits. I don't agree that they should be lowered arbitrarily; must meet clear demands for school construction as a top priority.

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, I support greater coverage of construction cost and procedural flexibility. I support greater State/local collaboration as long as LOCAL Control and investment priorities choices are respected. I oppose State ranking of priorities.

### 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 Indicators of equity must include: access to experienced, quality teachers; rigorous programming and curriculum; appropriate assessments that drive instruction; maximum linguistic and culturally appropriate instruction; data driven instructional flexibility; continuous assessment of achievement gaps

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

3.2 LANGUAGE and culturally-appropriate communications at family friendly locations and times

### 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 Totally committed to improving climate with greater cultural and linguistic sensitivity and competence. Each school must be the SAFE place that students thrive in. Must have consistent and effective policies and practices that are transparent and evidenced in EVERY school





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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: Gutierrez, Ana Sol

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 must be the result of a transparent, inclusive preparation and review process that includes not only MCPS staff, but parents, students, and community leaders.   |
| 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 Yes, health and nutrition education now extends beyond the school walls as more families, health experts, and overall communities practices actively contribute to a students awareness of the importance of good nutrition and health habits. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 Must significantly increase the availability and quality of services and resources.  |

### 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 strongly believe that current school security practices must be reviewed for effectiveness and disparate treatment of students based on racial and ethnic biases. Must require training in conflict resolution and understanding of racial/ethnic cultural / linguistic differences. provide better oversight |
| 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 My TOP priority will be to ensure stable and sufficient school funding to   |
| 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 Yes--absolutely. Planning to meet capacity needs for each of our schools, not just at the c"average", luster level, is a urgent priorit |
| 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, absolutely. I would propose that development cover a greater share of infrastructure costs   |

### Candidate: Harris, Kevin



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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: Harris, Kevin**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 005

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [kevin@kevinharrisforcouncil.org](mailto:kevin@kevinharrisforcouncil.org) / Phone: 3015399824

### 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, Universal Pre-K is critical for children and their families. Helping to ensure our children are as prepared as they can be for kindergarten, an easing the onerous burden of childcare costs on families. I believe we need to fund Pre-K through a combin

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 do not support the reduction in General Obligation bonds. Our schools face growing enrollment that put increased pressure on our aging infrastructure. Failure to meet these capitol needs will negatively impact the great schools we expect and our children deserve.

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'd be willing to explore any opportunity to bring much needed funds to address the capital needs of our schools. This is a question of will and priority. If we can find \$5 Billion to lure Amazon to our County, we can find monies to ensure our children don't go to substandard schools.

### 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 Expand ESOL teachers, reading specialists, counselors to help all succeed. Reduce class size so that teachers have the ability to work with individual students to provide them with the instruction geared to them. Implement recommendations of the Metis report so that more of our students who would benefit from an enriched curriculum can.

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

3.2 Ensure that communications from our schools are culturally competent. Encourage local school leaders to have open-door policies and office hours so that parents have more opportunity to interact with them. Set up parent conferences with teachers more than just once a year so there are structured communications with teachers, parents 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 We need to take a more pro-active approach that starts with having a diverse and culturally competent staff. Our curriculum needs to ensure that children are reading and writing about the lives and achievements of all kinds of





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Harris, Kevin**

	people. I also think our schools should expand efforts at utilizing restorative practices rather than traditional discipline modes
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 believe data driven research adjusted for the age of school populations should drive regulations that advance standards in our schools. Research should be combined with community outreach and conversation to set reasonable standards for our schools.
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 Health and nutrition have an important place in our schools. Creating wellness councils in schools is an important step to integrate best practices within our schools. Looking for opportunities within the curricula to introduce health and nutrition topics should be an important priority.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 Early intervention thorough identification and counseling and where necessary referral is important. To do that effectively our schools need adequate numbers of counselors and need to provide the training to all teachers, administrators and paraprofessiona

### 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 There seems to be high levels of cooperation between MCPS and the MCPD at the High School Level with assigned Security Resource Officers. Getting the best officers for SRO assignments will require a combination of incentives as well as some freedom an
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 I think we need to go to any lengths possible to face the challenge of our growing school age population with more resources and innovation to keep class sizes as small as possible to ensure we maintain our high quality school system
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 I support the recent changes., but allowing development without thought to new school construction is short sighted. It creates a vicious cycle of development exacerbating overcrowding in our schools, leading to declines in school quality that decreases h
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 I believe developers are not paying their fair share. In fact enterprise zones and tax incentives are such a boon to these developers that they invest significant monies to influence elections to protect these incentives. Having land acquisitions funded b

**Candidate: Hucker, Tom**



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Hucker, Tom**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 005

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [tom@tomhucker.com](mailto:tom@tomhucker.com) / Phone: 2404814825

### 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 strongly support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County families. The 2017 Kirwan Commission report reached consensus that "universal prekindergarten is critical in order to give every child a good start to their educa

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 In deciding whether to support the Spending Affordability Guidelines, I considered the future fiscal impact of supporting the recommended SAG and of increasing the SAG. I heard from many residents who were concerned that limiting the SAG would adversely affect the likelihood of addressing their capa...

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, I support many of the strategies suggested in the Commission's report. I am supportive of P3s under the right circumstances, and strongly support giving MCPS more flexibility to build smaller schools or on smaller sites if it will help our local school system streamline costly review processes ...

### 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 strongly support equity in our school system and methods to achieve it. Obviously, I supported the controversial 2016 tax increase after we struck the historic agreement with the BOE and the Superintendent that they would invest the additional revenue in hiring new teachers and staff specifically ...

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

3.2 MCPS must make changes to improve communication with students and families. One example where its practices have not lived up to expectations was the recent changes at Rolling Terrace Elementary School. These changes were abruptly announced without any program-specific public comment period or ...

### 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 Montgomery County has distinguished itself for decades as a community where people fleeing war, discrimination or violence — or just seeking a better life — can feel safe and build a family. By doing so, we have built the



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Hucker, Tom**

third-most racially and ethnically diverse community in America. I expect

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 play a vital role in setting acceptable minimum standards for safety, health and other issues. I have voted to create or toughen standards on several issues within the jurisdiction of the state or county government. I have also advocated for the Board of Education to enact or strengthen ...

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 Yes, despite its constrained budget MCPS needs to strive to fully practice what it preaches with respect to student nutrition. We already have made changes to school vending machines to ensure that their offerings are lower in sugar and overall calories. And progress has been made on school

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

4.4 Since joining the Council I've been proud to support full funding for important existing programs in this area. I believe we need more trained clinical social workers in our schools, as DC and other systems have. I also support expanding wellness centers, day long mental health seminars and expanded ...

### 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 MCPS needs to do a better job of communicating and working with MCPD. I was very concerned to hear about several disturbing incidents of staff misconduct at schools in my district. These incidents reportedly happened over many years and often included notice from parents to school administrators...

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 One of my priorities is to fight for funding to increase capacity and lower class sizes. These are two strategies critical to addressing the achievement gap, and to achieve equity within our school system. During my first term on the County Council, we provided enough new funding to allow the 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 Yes, in my first term on the Council I have consistently considered impacts on MCPS growth from land-use decisions before us. I support any changes to consider school land as a priority public amenity. We also need to do more to work with private property

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 While land acquisition is important in some areas, from what I've seen, I don't think that a dedicated fund is necessary because the county has a significant inventory of properties to consider. The Council and Planning Board have been successful in recent

**Candidate: Katz, Sidney A.**



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Katz, Sidney A.**

**Office:** County Council **District:** Councilmanic District 003

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [sidneykatz@earthlink.net](mailto:sidneykatz@earthlink.net) / Phone: 2403720919

### 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 support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents, and there is certainly a role for the County to play. The Council has been looking at different proposals for how we fund universal pre-K, and I am eager for the Cou

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'm concerned about the amount of debt that Montgomery County carries, and I have been working to lower the amount of debt service that the County pays each year while maintaining and not harming MCPS capital projects. By spending less on debt, we can use those dollars for capital improvement needs.

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 strongly support incentives to drive state and local collaboration to allow for opportunities as described.

### 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 need to be doing all we can to support students, especially those who need additional assistance. An important component of the performance gap is the lack of universal pre-K, and I support finding a way to fund universal pre-K as well as increasing our career education possibilities.

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

3.2 MCPS should ensure that communications are accessible in multiple languages and through multiple means - written correspondence, emails, phone calls, and on the web. Students and parents should have numerous opportunities for interaction and feedback from teachers and the administration.

### 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 It is of the utmost importance that all of our students feel welcome. There is no place for hate speech in our schools. I am proud to live in a place like Montgomery County that celebrates diversity. I am committed to working with our schools to ensure all students are respected and valued.



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Katz, Sidney A.**

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in the areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2 MCPS has a wide range of policies and regulations to address each of the areas above. These regulations should be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are current.
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 Yes. Quality nutrition is imperative for good health. Nutrition also impacts a student's alertness and readiness to learn. There needs to be complete integration with food services as to the choices available so that students can have nutritional meals at school and make healthy choices.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 We need to do more to serve the mental health needs of students. I am the lead on Behavior Health for the Justice System on the Public Safety Committee, and I was instrumental in bringing mental health courts to Montgomery County. I also serve on the Board of Directors for Cornerstone-Montgomery.

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 believe that MCPS and the police department are working well together and having a School Resource Officer in each high school has been very successful. I attended a few hours of SRO training a few months ago and was impressed with the police officers who are directly involved in our 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 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 I have been involved in raising the tax rate only twice in my 39 years in elected office. When the Council voted to increase property taxes, I knew it was necessary to do so to reduce class sizes. As the County has faced a budget shortfall, I have been a strong advocate against significant cuts.
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 Yes. The failure to provide appropriate staging for development serves no one's interests in the long run. The two most important categories of staging are school capital investment (including need for new schools) and road/transit improvements.
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, I would be very open to having this discussion.

**Candidate: Malikidogo-Fludd, Kenge**





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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: Malikidogo-Fludd, Kenge**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 005

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [voteforkenge@gmail.com](mailto:voteforkenge@gmail.com) / Phone: 2406865406

### 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 fully support early childhood programs, and feel that it should be funded through the state, and county partnerships because data shows the longterm outcomes will outweigh/

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 need innovation to fund the growing capital improvement needs. I am for working with developers and local businesses to help fund these projects through incentives that would take some of the burden ...

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 support trying new ideas as long as MCPS has strong decision making ability in the approach.

### 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 am open to hearing measures that are mutually beneficial for students and teachers. Some measures to consider would ensuring the equitable hiring and retention of experienced and effective teachers in the differe

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

3.2 To increase engagement, MCPS should prioritize hiring qualifies teachers that the community feels comfortable engaging with.

### 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 Inclusion and respect is the most important aspect of fostering and maintaining safe spaces in our schools. My commitment will go toward the support of commission and another appointments of persons that are also dedicated to creating such a climate across our county.



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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: Malikidogo-Fludd, Kenge

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 We are in one of the most progressive districts in the United States, we need to look beyond the watered down regulations and define "safe" standards for ourselves using already conducted international, national, state and county studies.   |
| 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 The goals of education are to ensure our students are ready to make decisions on their own. Health and nutrition being built into the curriculum from K-12th grades would certainly impact the Food & Nutrition. It might require a change in Food & Nutrition suppliers and food options available. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I support partnerships with nonprofits and other counseling service referrals for students, and families.  |

### 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 Cooperation with MCPS and MCPD is a welcome idea. It needs to do more than provide security. SRO's should be required to have additional training and education that help them understand the minds of our children. |
| 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 Our growth is a result of development, and I am committed to ensuring development prioritizes the impact on our schools. |
| 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 they should  |
| 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 Absolutely.  |

### Candidate: McGee, Jim





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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: McGee, Jim**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [jim@mcgeeforcouncil.com](mailto:jim@mcgeeforcouncil.com) / Phone: 4436264431

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: McGee, Jim

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

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: Navarro, Nancy



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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: Navarro, Nancy**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 004

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@nancynavarro.org](mailto:info@nancynavarro.org) / Phone:

### 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 Quality, accessible and affordable, Early Care and Education is the best possible investment we can make in a child's life. This is a Federal, State and County issue, because the biggest barrier is funding.

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 Debt Service is the 3rd largest spending category in the County's budget. This is why we increased recordation taxes to add funds for school construction. Innovative school designs, boundary changes, opening closed schools, etc. will be needed.

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

### 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 Lower class sizes, diversify staff, expand dual language programs, mandatory cultural proficiency training, additional PPWs, PCCs, counselors, Community schools, after-school programs with strong parent engagement component for low-income students, STEAM opportunities for all students, BELL prg.

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 MCPS is a diverse system. This is not a novelty, this is a reality. So the institution must respond to the needs of its students, through policy, training, diverse staff, and zero tolerance for those who are not able to provide an excellent education to a diverse student body.



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Navarro, Nancy

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?

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

4.4 We need more counselors, PPWs, and PCCs that can work with HHS and CBOs to provide a comprehensive mental health supports to our studnets.

### 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 SROs can be an asset to our schools. The new MOU and on-going training will go a long way in providing the best preparation and match for school assignments.

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 Big challenge. We continue to fund MCPS generously, while debt service grows and sources of revenues remain flat or decrease. We must embrace an aggressive Econ. Dev. strategy, to expand our tax base, although many want to stop growth altogether. Hopefully, the State will increase their state aid.

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

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 We have made school sites the top public benefit. I am definetely open to further discussing ways to achieve this goal.

### Candidate: Oldak, Regina "Reggie"



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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: Oldak, Regina "Reggie"**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [Reggie@ReggieOldak.com](mailto:Reggie@ReggieOldak.com) / Phone: 2402929186

### 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. Achievement differences start early; children who fall behind may never catch up. The Council should convene stakeholders like MCPS, BOE, PTAs, and other experts to consider funding needs before making decisions. I would like to see state-wide adopti

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 It's imperative that we continue to fund MCPS's growing capital improvement needs. Our good schools are critical for educating our children and for promoting economic development.

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 am inclined to support such incentives. We need innovative solutions that would increase state and local collaboration.

### 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 Teachers need more support, training, and resources. Additional personnel would be helpful in many schools. Training should aim to increase staff's cultural competence, address the needs of students with disabilities, and capitalize on students' backgrounds, abilities, resilience, and effort.

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

3.2 As a public school parent, I know how important this communication is. We need a variety of options, from email and Internet sites to backpacks, including low-tech methods, in several languages, as appropriate for each community.

### 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 A positive school climate will ensure students feel safe and free to express themselves. We should encourage diversity among our school personnel to provide role models for students. Student, staff and family participation to identify climate, security and safety concerns and solutions is critical.



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Oldak, Regina "Reggie"

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 It's critically important that our schools ensure our students' physical and mental wellness and safety. I would consider additional regulations to support these goals, but I would like to hear from diverse stakeholders before adding them.  |
| 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 Yes. Advancing literacy in nutrition and health will help to engage students, families, and MCPS in creating a culture of health in our schools, homes, and communities.   |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 In all parts of the County, MCPS should devote more attention, time, and funding to issues of student mental health. More counselors and other staff are needed to provide students and their families with the support that will help them be successful in life as well as in college. |

### 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 Gun violence is increasingly a threat around the country, and school safety and student security must be of the utmost priority. I commit to working with MCPS and PTAs to ensure the safety of our schools, including efforts to recruit SROs. |
| 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 should be reduced. We should consider reopening schools, expanding/remodeling existing schools, building new schools, and reusing existing building stock. We should also consider adding para-educators so that students get the attention they need and teachers have time to teach. |
| 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 Additional school capacity should be discussed, determined, and built before new development is approved, or, at least, occupied.   |
| 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 Given the importance and the complexity of the SSP, I need to learn more about this issue before making a commitment.   |

### Candidate: Osorio, Dalbin





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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: Osorio, Dalbin**

**Office:** County Council **District:** Councilmanic District 001

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@dalbinosorio.com](mailto:info@dalbinosorio.com) / Phone: 2402334821

### 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: Osorio, Dalbin

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: Puca, Tony



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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: Puca, Tony**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 002

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [tonypuca@aol.com](mailto:tonypuca@aol.com) / Phone: 3019906654

### 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 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: Puca, Tony

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

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: Rice, Craig 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: Rice, Craig L.**

**Office:** County Council **District:** Councilmanic District 002

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [ricepolitics@gmail.com](mailto:ricepolitics@gmail.com) / Phone: 2404765067

### 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. It should be funded by both. 65-35 split state/county

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 need additional funding form the State. The current split on avg. is 83/17, County/State. This is unacceptable. We should never pit our projects against each other but school overcrowding should not take a back seat to anything.

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

### 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 All means all via Jack Smith. That means no more bias, more support, more teacher autonomy, more innovation, more support of programs like MSP etc...

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

3.2 Linguistically and culturally competent communication is a must. And showing them the value of an education is how you get students and families engaged.

### 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 Students have a hard enough time facing the challenging curriculum and an ever changing world. We need to make sure all they need to focus on is school. as with my landmark bullying bill back in 2008, the tenants are the same. no one should feel as though they don't belong.



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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: Rice, Craig L.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 We should promote policies that protect our kids from what we know may be a danger to them and support them when they need help.  |
| 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 Yes. We have supported this at our MC Food Council. It already has had an impact and will continue to do so through revamping of menus and access to physical activities. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 All students may need support through access to counselors and mentors and we should be providing that to them.   |

### 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 the MOU and relationship is strong as evidenced by the recent Clarksburg HS incident. I think the MOU ensures we have the best officers currently in place but we can always strive to revisit the MOU and make it better regarding cultural competency and the latest training methodologies regard |
| 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 Fully fund the MCPS budget as a first step.  |
| 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 It should be in the top considerations   |
| 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 No, I don't believe in walling off money as it has never served an entity well. Just look to the State as an example. Supplant vs. Enhance |

### Candidate: Sefcik, Kyle



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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: Sefcik, Kyle**

**Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 002**

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [kylesefcikforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kylesefcikforcouncil@gmail.com) / Phone:

### 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 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: Sefcik, Kyle

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

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: Shnider, Ben



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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: Shnider, Ben**

Office: County Council District: Councilmanic District 003

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [shniderb@gmail.com](mailto:shniderb@gmail.com) / Phone: 2402429451

### 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 strongly support the implementation of Universal Pre-K for every MCPS student. It is the County Council's responsibility, collaborating with MCPS, to implement this vital measure. This is one of the reasons I support seeking authority from the state to

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 appreciate both the pressing capital needs facing MCPS, plus the fiscal challenges facing the County. Given the importance of MCPS for our students and the County's economy, MCPS infrastructure needs to be the top priority. Making progress requires trust and creativity among stakeholders.

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. Collaboration among all stakeholders to identify ways to address the capital needs at MCPS quicker, within inherently constrained resources, is prudent. The bottom line is that we need to make it quicker and cheaper to build new facilities and use existing space more efficiently.

### 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 push for universal pre-k at MCPS. I will also draw on the community school model to target additional resources, like therapy, to under-resourced schools. Finally, we must expand vocational offerings. I earned the support of our County's teachers due largely to my commitment to equity.

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

3.2 Materials must be culturally competent and translated when necessary.

### 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'll work proactively with MCPS, and public and private partners (including MCPTA, County Government and non-profits who work with youth) to foster an environment, inside and outside the classroom, where harassment in all forms is unacceptable and students are encouraged to express their concerns.



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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: Shnider, Ben

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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 MCPS, MCPTA and other stakeholders should determine the proper balance between the benefits and potential hazards of technology, both in and outside of the classroom. I will proactively work to facilitate this process and support any applicable regulatory changes that may result. |
| 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 Health and nutrition education at an early age is the best route to sound, lifelong habits. The Council should proactively encourage MCPS to explore their policies regularly. I will support additional funding, if feasible, to advance such consistent reflection.                    |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I will fight to ensure adequate staffing to provide such resources.  |

### 5. Safety

#### Answers

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| 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 believe there is a good relationship between MCPS & MCPD. Strengthening positive interaction between officers and students, plus security planning/response are equally important goals. We must ensure we educate the community about the importance of SROs, such that the role is adequately resourced. |
| 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

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|--|--|
| 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 First, we must ensure adequate funding of the MCPS CIP, including a fair share of resources from developers. We should also consider reopening closed schools. Using vacant private office space for schools should be an option as well. Finally, boundaries changes must be considered in certain cases. |
| 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 Yes, it is always important for land use policies to consider the impacts of growth and how to best prepare for it on MCPS infrastructure, including identifying/reserving school sites, when needed.  |
| 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 I will support any measure to ensure adequate funds for MCPS infrastructure.   |

### Candidate: Wellington, Meredith



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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: Wellington, Meredith**

**Office:** County Council **District:** Councilmanic District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [meredithwellington2018@gmail.com](mailto:meredithwellington2018@gmail.com) / Phone: 3015804700

### 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 Montgomery County cannot wait for state to provide universal pre-k, altho statewide Pre-K should be a goal. Pre-k is proven to help close the achievement gap. County should continue to supplement pre-k subsidy for low income children. I will carefully con

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 Education is our County's number one priority. I would like to see ways to reduce construction costs. I will continue to work with the MoCo delegation to Annapolis to bring back more money. I will carefully review SAG and look at all options to meet the needs of MCPS and our children.

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.

### 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 Early assessments & interventions are key. Recruit more racially, gender & ethnically diverse teachers and administrators. Employ sufficient numbers of specialists, instructional aides, & counselors to meet needs of all students. Teacher quality must be even across all county schools.

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

3.2 Use community's languages; offer flexible meeting times; offer liaison for families new to USA; home visits if needed.

### 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 Report bullying to central office, resource officer; teach parents to monitor kids' social media and phones; MCPS does a good job teaching various religious and cultural differences - perhaps they could start in earlier grades.



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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: Wellington, Meredith

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 support BOE regs that train educators & counselors to restrict/manage tech use for students in special programs like Linkages to Learning, special ed programs. All students & parents must be taught responsible tech use.   |
| 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 A child's performance in school is strongly impacted by what she eats. It is vital that MCPS do more to improve nutrition knowledge. I would like to see MCPS Food and Nutrition Division move away from prepackaged high sugar/salt/fat processed products to more locally produced & natural foods. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 If elected, I will support MCPS and HHS requests for mental health counselors and services, and assistance for those who cannot afford such services.   |

### 5. Safety

#### Answers

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|--|--|
| 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 It is vital that MCPS, MCPD, parents, students cooperate on school safety. At top level, partnership appears strong. Incentives to serve as SRO may include: success from early intervention; flexible scheduling; partners or backups for days off; extra training or education in related field. |
| 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 I will work to meet the needs of the teachers to best serve their students & to making sure students have enough space for sports and physical fitness. I will work with all parties to increase school construction funding, find appropriate school sites, & be a responsible steward of taxpayer funds. |
| 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 public amenity and appropriate sites identified in all master/sector plans.   |
| 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 support such a fund.  |

### Candidate: Albornoz, Gabe





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Alborno, Gabe**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [gabe.alborno@gabeforcouncil.com](mailto:gabe.alborno@gabeforcouncil.com) / Phone: 3016511054

### 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 support making pre-K accessible to all Montgomery County families. I have endorsed Montgomery County Moving Forwards Early Education and Child Care call to Action. Affordability is an issue. I would support a plan which 1) phases in pre-K beginning with

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 Because the school construction budget is the top priority for the County, even with reduced bond funding, money for school construction is higher than prior years - the current CIP increases Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) construction funding by \$7.5 million. This amount represents an increase of nearly \$578 million for MCPS over the past 12 years. The current CIP continues to prioritize schools, making significantly deeper cuts to non-school construction projects. The reason that the County Executive and Council agreed to gradually reduce General Obligation (GO) bond debt is because it is critical to maintain the County's AAA bond rating. If the County had not decided to scale back the GO bond funding over the coming six-year CIP, it faces the very real possibility that it could lose its AAA bond rating, would be forced to pay significantly higher interest rates on construction projects, thereby actually reducing the amount of funding available for school construction.

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 think some of these ideas may be worth exploring, however we need to proceed with caution. Relaxing some of the construction practices, such as recommended by the Commission, would mean reducing costs and speed up construction, but also reduce the quality and longevity of school facilities

### 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 The responsibility of the County Council is to ensure that the school system has the funding to carry out its mission. I will consider the school budget from this perspective as well as from my conviction that an excellent school system is one of our most useful economic development tools. A good school system will attract and retain business, prepare the future workforce, and promote economic justice. In addition to supporting education, I will





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Albornoz, Gabe**

support the other County agencies and nonprofit organizations that collaborate with the school system in its mission. It has been my experience that when these community partners work together, more students excel. I will support preschool and after school programs and technical and trade training to help students and families create a path to success for their children.

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

3.2 I believe that MCPS should enhance efforts to reach underserved, minority and non-English speakers. This could be a joint effort with the County's Office of Community Partnerships (OCP), which includes the Faith Based Advisory Group. OCP has a robust outreach network that brings many voices to the table.

### 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 don't believe a council member should micromanage the schools, however as a community leader I will vigorously defend these ideals using every tool available to me. In work as Recreation Dept Director, I insisted upon an agency that respected and accommodated every person we served. I made programmatic and facility changes to assure this.

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 again, I don't believe a councilmember should do the work of a Board of Ed member, however, one role of the Council is to serve as the County's state-mandated Board of Health. In that capacity, I will insist that all elements of our community are healthy and safe. I will support the school health budget and advocate to enhance mental health services in the schools.

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 Health and Nutrition education and practice should ideally be integrated in every part of a child's life, including school. I believe MCPS is making good progress in this area. I wish there were more opportunities in the school day for fitness and specific health and mental health education to be expanded

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

4.4 I began my career working with at risk teens. I am well aware of the mental health risks they face. I will be a strong advocate to expand mental health in the schools through Linkages to Learning and other partnerships with no profits. I particularly support elementary school intervention which could prevent more serious illness in a child's future. I will advocate for a suicide hotline for teens.

### 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 feel that cooperation between MCPS and police is very high, and school security is strong. Because of the growing concern over incidents such as the recent school shootings and the threat of gang violence, making our school security even stronger should be a high priority. I believe that our police department, working closely with MCPS should conduct a safety review to ensure that we have the right procedures and safety precautions in place to protect our students. I would consider incentives to attract experienced police officers to join the SRO program.

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 Funding for MCPS is my highest priority and I am committed to ensuring that we provide schools the funding it needs for both its capital and operating needs. We also have to ensure through our planning process that we do not overburden our schools.



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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

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**Candidate: Albornoz, Gabe**

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 believe that future development should provide the appropriate school capacity and not overburden our current classrooms.

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

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**Candidate: Arkoian, Rosemary O.**



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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: Arkoian, Rosemary O.**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [rarkoian@hotmail.com](mailto:rarkoian@hotmail.com) / Phone: 3019265008

### 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 this. Funding will be a challenge & very expensive. I'd look into Public/Private Partnerships. I think this should be a State issue, not a County issue.

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 Yes, I'm concerned about the County's debt. We need more money from the State. The money from gambling/casinos should go directly towards Education, as promised.

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, I believe the State needs to provide more funds for all schools. I'd support incentives to drive state/local collaboration.

### 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 need to hire CARING, INTELLIGENT teachers to help ALL students to reach their full potential. We also need smaller class sizes.

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

3.2 MCPS should have free English classes for immigrant parents, so they could help their children with homework and volunteer in their schools.

### 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 firmly believe that all students need to be treated equally & I have NO tolerance for bullying.



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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: Arkoian, Rosemary O.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 There needs to be regulations to protect students from physical & mental health problems. Also, students need to be taught safety on all social media.      |
| 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 Yes, whenever possible, health & nutrition education should be introduced into the curricula. MCPS' Food & Nutrition Div. should collaborate with teachers. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I feel mental health issues are on the rise & many students suffer from stress & anxiety. I'm committed to helping them.                                    |

### 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'm in favor of SRO's in all high schools and all middle schools. Perhaps, extra money should be offered to SRO's. |
| 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 I'm committed to trying to keep class sizes small. Perhaps, hire more aides to assist teachers. |
| 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 Yes, school land should be a top public amenity in new development plans.                       |
| 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, I'd support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by developers.  |

### Candidate: Balcombe, Marilyn



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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: Balcombe, Marilyn**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [marilyn@marilynbalcombe.com](mailto:marilyn@marilynbalcombe.com) / Phone:

### 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, the only way we are going to provide equity in education is to make early education accessible to all. Pre-K should be part of the overall funding formula, funded by State and County general fund. This is a State issue, if the State doesn't agree, the Co

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 understand the spending affordability guidelines impact the capital budget, but we must control the County's debt. School construction should be a priority, however we need to balance schools, transportation and housing to ensure a strong economy to pay for our 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 Yes. We need flexibility, not only in funding mechanisms, but in how we approach our capacity issues. With the growth in school population, we cannot build the equivalent of one new HS every year. We need to think outside the literal box of what we consider to be the ideal ES, MS, or HS.

### 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 need to make sure every child entering kindergarten is ready for success. Pre-K and early care and education are both critical to ensure this happens. We need incentives in place to ensure continuity of teaching staff in schools with a higher number of FARM students

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

3.2 We need to make sure we have community liaisons who have language and cultural proficiencies for all our students. We also need to continue working outside MCPS to build partnerships with other programs and services in the County.

### 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 strongly committed to every child feeling safe, welcome, and secure in our schools and in our community. Before mandating changes, I would need to know what the current programs are in place and talk with parents, teachers and students to identify the changes that need to take place to ensure



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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: Balcombe, Marilyn

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 Similar to all facets of our society, we set standards and create laws to regulate appropriate behavior.
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 The simple answer is yes, health and nutrition education is a great investment in raising healthy children. The complex answer would depend on what other curriculum would have to be eliminated to make room for this addition. I would support increasing the healthy standards for MCPS food service.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 I am a psychologist with a Masters in Mental Health Counseling and Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology. I strongly support mental health services for all our students, teachers, and staff.

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 assume there is a strong relationship between MCPS and the Police Dept with mixed outcomes depending on the individuals involved. I agree need the best officers we can find in our schools. I would need to know about existing selection criteria and compensation for SROs before identifying changes.
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 I think it is critical for Montgomery County to keep pace and I support increasing capacity throughout the school system. Maintaining a reasonable class size would be a priority for me.
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
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 I believe that the school impact fees that developers pay should go directly towards increased school capacity, whether that is land acquisition, new school construction, or expansion and not be diverted to other capital needs in the County.

### Candidate: Barkley, Charles





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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: Barkley, Charles**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [charles@charlesbarkleyforcouncil.com](mailto:charles@charlesbarkleyforcouncil.com) / Phone: 3015407071

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Barkley, Charles

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: Bhatnagar, Shruti



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Bhatnagar, Shruti**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [shruti4mococouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shruti4mococouncil@gmail.com) / Phone: 3019491672

### 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 am. This is both a County and State issue and as such the program should be funded jointly. Kirwan commission has recommended increase pre-kindergarten expansion grants and the county needs to also invest in this program.

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 No. The County Council must allocate more funds for MCPS CIP needs. Work with all stakeholders to demand a fair share of state funding by ensuring the new school funding formula in 2019 works for our public schools and demand approval of Fix the Fund Act. MCPS CIP needs must be the highest priority.

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. We should be open minded about new ideas or approaches that can provide more state funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. I support Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommendations and would be willing to support incentives to drive State/local collaboration.

### 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 There is strong evidence that early childhood education and care, alongside public policy measures to improve the lives of young children, is the highest equity priority. Invest in Pre-k and ensure families have access to resources and opportunities so that every child can reach his/her potential.

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

3.2 Ensure MCPS workforce represents the diversity of students and families of our community. Cultural proficiency training to help teachers overcome cultural barriers and eliminating technical jargon that is difficult to understand

### 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 Fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance so that everyone feels welcome and valued is important for the social and emotional well-being of students. They are more likely to perform better, reach their



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Bhatnagar, Shruti**

	potential and make a positive contribution if there is no fear of being judged.
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 should be based on supporting student well being and success. They should be used to educate and promote necessary standards of physical fitness, mental wellness and cyber safety. As a former MCCPTA board member, I have led initiatives and community conversations on these topics.
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 Yes. Studies show that garden-based learning has a positive impact on learning; it improves students' attitude toward school and bridges language and cross-cultural barriers. Practices & policies should be evaluated regularly to adapt positive changes & support student well being, learning & success
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 I serve on the commission of Montgomery county children and youth and as the ambassador for Asian American Mental Health working on Mental health as a priority. I am committed to making sure that there are adequate resources to support community based mental health and counseling services accessible

### 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 perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security is positive. Every HS is supposed to have SRO's. Incentives - free training so officers can hone skills they already have or develop new skills that can make them more effective SRO's.
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 I am committed to supporting the most critical needs of our students and schools. I will work closely with all stakeholders to advocate for state funding to meet CIP needs and resources needed to keep class sizes remain small. As a former MCCPTA board member I have that experience.
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 Yes
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. All stakeholders must work together and be committed to supporting the Capital improvement needs of our schools. I would encourage land developers to invest in schools.

**Candidate: Branson, Cherri L.**



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Branson, Cherri L.**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [cherribranson@hotmail.com](mailto:cherribranson@hotmail.com) / Phone: 3015009549

### 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 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: Branson, Cherri L.**

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: Brooks, Brandy H. M.**





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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: Brooks, Brandy H. M.**

**Office:** County Council At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [brandy@brandy4moco.com](mailto:brandy@brandy4moco.com) / Phone: 3012448845

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Brooks, Brandy H. M.

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

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: Carozza-Caviness, Craig



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Carozza-Caviness, Craig**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info.ccc4moco@gmail.com](mailto:info.ccc4moco@gmail.com) / Phone: 2404253441

### 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 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: Carozza-Caviness, Craig

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: Colbert, Ron



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Colbert, Ron**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [ron@colbertforcouncil.com](mailto:ron@colbertforcouncil.com) / Phone: 3012531216

### 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 PRE-K should be afforded to all county residents. Studies have shown that early education is very beneficial to the learning growth of students. In my opinion, the county budget is strifing with fat and should be able to cover the costs coupled with an incre

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 2.1 The council just cut 55 million without much effort, if this can be done why was the money there in the first place. As I mentioned before, there is much fat in a budget, this amount could have built an elementary school!! This is where I would start. We could start with looking at the 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 Innovation is not only needed for maintenance and new construction but also in the classroom. By attempting to work with partners in funding, this would release some of the burden on the state and local school systems. Some schools have already had assistance in funding things cost of athletic

### 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 Perhaps instead of pushing teachers to just teach obtain a high-test score, we teach a sound education for all. We have "magnet" schools to reach our high achieving students but then do not spend enough time on others to bring them up to standards. Every child at every level deserves the best

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

3.2 Coupled with the PTA, they could reach out in multiple languages. Have volunteer interpreters present for PTA meetings and get that word out. When I was PTA president and vice president when my kids were in school we offered this. We had a sign language and Spanish interpreters at every meeting and

### 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 Ignorance of others culture is the worst that can happen. Educate students to all cultures and hate will reduce. Hate is a learned thing, we are not born with this. Over the years students are influenced by their lack of knowledge and fear of the unknown. The high school I worked at offer a after sc



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Colbert, Ron

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 Education, Education, Education! This one for our adults in how and what to look for. There must be policies in place on how to handle this for the safety of all. Have law enforcement and or technology experts address the student body starting in elementary school on the dangers of misuse if digital |
| 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 To a point this could be integrated. Parents' play a pivotal role in this but help bolster this schools could assist by teaching. One would think if this is being taught in classrooms, the policies would have to adhere to the teaching and therefore could impact practice and policies.                 |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 Mental health is critical component to society in general. We must assure there enough trained counselors in our school to address this issue.   |

### 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 Police are doing the best they can with the resources they have had hand. Possibly work more closely with the schools to allow them to interview selected officers being placed in the schools to assure they will be a good match. We need to have a good relationship with students to gain their trust. |
| 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 find innovative ways to fund new building and then redirect funding slated for the building to staffing required levels. |
| 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  |
| 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  |

### Candidate: Conway, 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: Conway, Bill**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [bill@billconwayforcouncil.com](mailto:bill@billconwayforcouncil.com) / Phone: 3019839159

### 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, though it will be expensive. It should be funded through tax incentives and subsidies given the existing array of private providers. Early childhood education is both a County and State Issue.

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 Yes. Loss of our AAA bond rating would cost us more in the long run. Prioritizing school construction funding in the County budge does not necessarily mean cuts to other departments. The County's revenues increase each year, and other expenditures can be kept flat.

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. I am interested in any solutions to bring down the cost of construction through collaboration with the State. I have difficulty imagining why policy makers might oppose such efforts unless there are undisclosed downsides.

### 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 have supported the practice of basing attractive magnet programs in challenged schools and communities. In addition, I support housing policies that will foster mixed income neighborhoods and thereby address de facto segregation in our schools.

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

3.2 Where possible MCPS should secure administrators or other staff who have some proficiency in a highly-spoken language for the school's catchment area, and/or who have some familiarity with the culture(s) of the area.

### 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 Creating a school environment where a child feels secure is fundamental to that child's ability to learn— not unlike food security or housing security. School leadership must establish the culture and set the tone for each school's community in cooperation with parents and teachers.



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Conway, Bill

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 A regulation on its face may not be unreasonable, but the sum total of regulation (which bureaucracies tend to forget) can be positively harmful. However, the more a regulation has a direct bearing on assuring health and safety the more there should be a presumption in its favor.                     |
| 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 Health and nutrition education has to be part of MCPS curricula because, among other things, it relates to the preservation of each student's own life. The message that students take from health and nutrition education is undermined if the Food and Nutrition Division provides unhealthy food choices. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 Providing appropriate levels of mental health and counseling services to MCPS students is essential. Estimates are that between 12% -20% of students nationwide have mental disorders ranging from mild to serious. However, the numbers of students needing counseling services is much larger.             |

### 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 perception is that cooperation between law enforcement and MCPS is good. However, school security is not the same as general policing. I am in favor of SROs receiving the training provided by the National Association of School Resource Officers. |
| 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 I am committed to increasing MCPS funding at the County level for a host of purposes including school construction. However, we also need a more equitable share of state construction dollars. In that respect our state delegation has fallen down on the job. |
| 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. The failure to provide appropriate staging for development serves no one's interests in the long run. The two most important categories of staging are school capital investment (including need for new schools) and road/transit improvements.            |
| 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 I would have to know more of the details to make this commitment. While I am committed to increasing school funding across the board over the long term, I am also cognizant of the need to preserve budgeting flexibility within the County budget in the shor  |

### Candidate: Dang, Hoan



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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: Dang, Hoan**

**Office:** County Council At Large **District:** N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [hoan@votedang.com](mailto:hoan@votedang.com) / Phone:

### 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 We absolutely need to make universal pre-k a reality in Montgomery County. Publicly funded pre-k is available to only 25 percent of all 4-year-old children who live in the County. To fully fund this program there should be funding from federal, state and

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 support the Spending Affordability Guidelines and I strongly oppose school construction taking a backseat to other infrastructure priorities. Although the County Charter allows small increases in the affordability guidelines, I will work with all stakeholders to secure long-term spending.

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 support state and local collaboration for school construction. One approach I support is there-purposing of unused commercial space for schools, early childhood education programs; and distance learning. Many jurisdictions across the country have begun to use this model to great success.

### 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 The establishment of the Equity Initiatives Unit was a good first step in achieving an equitable education for each of our students. Equity also starts with our educators and I will support expanding opportunities for them to acquire additional training in equitable educational practices

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

3.2 We must ensure communications with students and families are culturally and linguistically appropriate. MCPS started a report card night where parents with limited English proficiency are teamed up with translators to review their child's

### 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 As a former refugee and proud graduate of MCPS, I am committed to fostering a climate of acceptance, inclusion and tolerance. To ensure students feel safe, respected and valued for who they are, I would support programs that encourage students to be courteous to those who



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Dang, Hoan**

	are different from them
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 should be used to advance school standards when it is to the benefit of the student's education and overall health. Regulations should also be used to promote creative problem solving, social emotional learning and academic excellence among our students
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 I would like to see health and nutrition integrated not only in the classroom, but with the families of students as well. I would like to see additional outreach to families including providing menus and nutritional information in other languages for our diverse community
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 It is imperative to provide adequate mental health and counseling services to MCPS students. Additionally, with an increasingly diverse student population, we must also ensure that access to these services are culturally and linguistically

### 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 believe MCPS and the MCPD are cooperating to ensure school security while maintaining an open and welcoming learning environment. To recruit the best talent for Security Resource Officers we need to ensure the pay is competitive, and SRO's are recruited to rotate among the local school district.
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 Properly funding for MCPS is key to ensure capacity keeps pace with growth and I will commit to work with all stakeholders involved to accomplish that. I will also keep development in check to ensure it does not outpace the public infrastructure to support it and developers pay their fair share
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 Yes, our student population is growing every year and we must be forward thinking when making development decisions to ensure land capacity for our schools. I also want the planning staff to study the reuse of vacant commercial space for schools, early on
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, I would support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition and would study the impacts of a funding source that could be partially financed by land developers

**Candidate: Dyer, Robert**



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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: Dyer, Robert**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [robert1999@hotmail.com](mailto:robert1999@hotmail.com) / Phone:

### 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've been a proponent of universal Pre-K for many years. Funding is going to be a huge challenge, given the current budget situation. I want to go to Zero Based Budgeting, so we can start funneling money to our true priorities like Pre-K & school construc

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 School construction is equal to transportation and public safety as a funding priority. We have to change our process to tie development approvals directly to infrastructure capacity. I wouldn't have supported the move b/c if I'd been on Council, we wouldn't have been in this mess!

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 Partnership w/the state is key. It would help to have a Republican councilmember who can have a more productive relationship with Gov. Hogan for us, should he be reelected. Again, the private sector profiting from the growth needs to help us out here.

### 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 Good schools in every neighborhood. Hans Riemer claims that blacks & Latinos only excel when surrounded by rich, white students. Jaime Escalante proved that bunk theory wrong 30 years ago. We need performance-based compensation for MCPS leaders.

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

3.2 One priority should be in the other direction - more listening to, and ACTING on, parents' concerns. For many, language is a barrier. I want to get after-hours tutoring programs into apartment buildings in Latino areas, in a holistic approach to affordable housing solutions.

### 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 Every person in MCPS should feel safe and valued. Period. Safety is a weakness at MCPS. The Council ignored devastating state audit exposing major cybersecurity holes at MCPS. I won't - in fact, I wrote my own analysis of the audit, and will act. Background checks & gang infiltration





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Dyer, Robert**

are weak areas.

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 More hours per week of exercise are needed. MCPS wireless device policy is out-of-control, trying to go over parents' heads - we don't need Jack Smith to be the "cool dad." Tie reforms to funding for non-classroom spending to get results.

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 Yes, in regards to physical edu. For nutrition, focus on getting the most useful information in the time we're spending now, rather than take away from STEM or arts. Need more input from students on Food Division offerings.

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

4.4 We need to address mental health in every respect as a county. It's a crisis. I want to partner with the state, top mental health researchers, and the private sector to build a new psychiatric facility. We have a shortage of beds right now. Extend research from there to counseling in 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 I was ahead of the Council in supporting SROs; they cut funds, remember? SROs are doing a great job (i.e. Clarksburg gun incident) & we need one in every school. Compensation should be the same generous package we have for County officers on the beat. Get peer input on officers for best fit.

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 may well have to "pull up the ladders" in areas where we are maxed-out on development. Infinite growth is a fantasy the Council believes is real. Hard-and-fast tie growth to infrastructure. I totally disagree w/idea of "super-size" schools being

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 Absolutely. It should have been at Westbard. Council blew it. Remember, next Council votes on Germantown, Aspen Hill, Gburg E. sector plans - do you want Riemer + 3 "new" clones of this Council voting? Or me, who'll take hard line against overdevelopment

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 Absolutely, but developers should be donating the land in many cases, not at taxpayer expense unless they are going to split the profits with us. More developer skin in the game is a must.

**Candidate: Falcinelli, Tom R. Jr.**





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Falcinelli, Tom R. Jr.**

**Office:** County Council At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [aifadirector@aol.com](mailto:aifadirector@aol.com) / Phone: 3012792412

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Falcinelli, Tom R. Jr.**

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

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: Fiotes, Chris P. Jr.**



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Fiotes, Chris P. Jr.**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [chrisfiotes18@comcast.net](mailto:chrisfiotes18@comcast.net) / Phone: 3019483797

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Fiotes, Chris P. Jr.

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: Forde, Lorna Phillips



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](mailto:Questionnaire2018@mccpta.org)  
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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: Forde, Lorna Phillips**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@lornaphillipsforde.com](mailto:info@lornaphillipsforde.com) / Phone: 2408016341

### 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 support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents. I portion of the county's tax should be earmarked to help improve schools, curriculum, programs, and increase teachers salaries. I believe the issue lies with bo

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 No, I do not support a movement that is subject to lowering affordability guideline that will cause harm to MCPS capital project possibilities. A percentage of the state's income from the lottery and casinos should be reserved for MCPS's growing capital improvement needs. Absolutely not!

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, I would support new ideas and approaches to school construction and promote ideas to drive State and local collaboration for such opportunities.

### 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 would create quality programs that address and meet the needs of our very diverse student population

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

3.2 Ensuring that all parents and students have all the information, in complete detail, and in a timely manner.

### 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? 4.2.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition



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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: Forde, Lorna Phillips

Division practices and policies?4.34.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.4.45. Safety Answers5.1 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?5.15.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?5.26. Growth AnswersName of Finance CommitteeElective Office SoughtPOC Email/Telephone--Next Page--

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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 I am prepared to build a volunteer team of qualified mental health professionals

### 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 believe the cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department is adequate. Salary, professional growth, work/life balance.

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





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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

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**Candidate: Forde, Lorna Phillips**

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 Build schools that can support the increasing number of enrolled students. Hire more teachers and teacher's aids.

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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

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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

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**Candidate: Garcia, Loretta Jean**



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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: Garcia, Loretta Jean**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [attorneygarcia@aol.com](mailto:attorneygarcia@aol.com) / Phone: 3012292522

### 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 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: Garcia, Loretta Jean

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: Geller, Paul S.



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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: Geller, Paul S.**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@alohapaulgeller.com](mailto:info@alohapaulgeller.com) / Phone: 3019698600

### 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 ECE must be made available to all residents. Must be high quality, a public/private partnership & free to those who need it. When elected, this will be my priority. I've been a statewide leader in securing more MD casino revenues for our schools.

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 MCPS must better spend \$\$\$:"Refresh" projects, not tear downs/rebuilds for all schools; more bidders for contracts, especially from outside MoCo. Need MD casino gambling \$\$\$ for this as well. Have been leader w/McKenna in securing Subdivision Staging Policy&Recordation Tax changes for CIP 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 I testified to Knott Comm & participated in MCPS meetings abt this. Saving \$\$\$ is good, but Knott looked @Charter Schools w/expected 15 yr life. MCPS builds schools for 40+ yr use. Incentives are fine. MCPS needs are significant, must build for long run & SECURE MORE OUTSIDE BIDS! Will save big \$\$\$!

### 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 As MCCPTA Immediate Past President, I actively & tirelessly pursue/d equity for all our students & schools. I remain at the fore of making sure forgotten and ignored schools have a powerful advocacy voice for their needs. Teachers need to look like their students. & this testing madness must STOP!!!

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

3.2 Streamline communication. 2 monthly newsletters: one for families w/info about MCPS signature programs & how to apply, key events, tips, calendar; 2nd for students. Need central branding strategy. Too many disparate promotional pieces out there now. Simplify website. Greater utilization of MCPS-TV.

### 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: Geller, Paul S.

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 Diversity is our strength. As only MCCPTA Exec Comm member to speak some Spanish, folks appreciated attempts at Spanish, French. We must reach out & assure people ICE has no place in MCPS & bullying/gangs won't be tolerated. MCPS is a safe place for all. More after school programs; no cost is key.
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 Regs are fine for WiFi exposure. We need more Counselors & Psychologists for rest. I've been a leader in securing \$108M+ in Op Funds annually thx to work of me, M. McKenna, MCCPTA, MCEA, SEIU, MCAAP, BOE, County Council in '16 & '17 to address issues from class sizes to pathways for SEIU members to teach.
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 Yes. Having extensively toured MCPS's Food and Nutrition Division plant, I can assure you many good lessons about health & nutrition can be developed from within those walls. We must continue to encourage MCPS to offer wiser snack choices in cafeterias, possibly low cost or free vegetable sticks,...
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 I have been advocating for the hiring & establishment of ratios for these professionals, & tirelessly seeking funding for them at the county & state levels for years now. And I have been doggone successful at it! Check out my work on Facebook/Twitter @AlohaPaulGeller and at <a href="http://www.AlohaPaulGeller.com">www.AlohaPaulGeller.com</a>

### 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 MCPS & MCPD cooperation is better than ever. Their Memorandum of Understanding helps protect students, teachers, staff, & admin. Challenges lie in recruiting & retaining SROs for some schools. SROs must want to be in these schools. MCPD should recruit students in high school for later SRO positions
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 MCPS must plan better for more students. Wilson Wims ES is bursting at the seams w/1100+ students. As a Councilmember, I will work w/MCPS & interested parties to assure we have proper school capacity & infrastructure before building new homes. We must get more casino funds from the state as well.
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 MoCo already considers school land as a top priority in plans partially due to the work of the Next Steps Reps, a subgroup of M. McKenna's CIP Committee, that I proudly served on. We successfully advocated for common sense approaches to development tha
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 We on the Next Steps Reps got nearly all we asked for, including the enormous ask I made directly to the then Council President for 120% of the cost of constructing each school seat... a quantum leap forward in school funding. The next SSP revision will

### Candidate: Glass, Evan



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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: Glass, Evan**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [evan@evanglass.com](mailto:evan@evanglass.com) / Phone:

### 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 am fully committed to providing additional resources to fund early childhood services and universal preschool for all Montgomery County children. We need a new funding formula that makes pre-kindergarten available for all incomes and adds additional res

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 Building schools and maintaining our infrastructure are the most important investments our local government can make. This needs to be the top CIP priority. There is no reliable data projecting a decrease in enrollment.

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 This election will bring a lot of change, which is why I am excited about bringing new ideas and trying new things in Rockville. I want to bring new approaches - like possibly creating a school construction authority that issues revenue bonds, or other innovative concepts to support our educational goals.

### 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 It is a moral imperative that we work to close the achievement/ opportunity gap in our schools so that every child receives high quality education. Research informs us that a child's propensity to learn is established well before he or she steps foot in a classroom, which is why must bring early childhood care and universal pre-K to Montgomery County.

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

3.2 As for former CNN journalist, I know that MCPS needs to improve its communication with students and families. MCPS may be doing a good job on social media, but it needs to have more of a presence in the communities - directly sharing information in the communities and with those who are not "connected".

### 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: Glass, Evan

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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 If elected I would be the county's first LGBTQ member of the Council. In this unique role, I am committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, respected and valued. Children need role models and champions of all stripes. I also offer these qualities as executive director of Gandhi Brigade Youth Media, a free afterschool program in the county.</p> <p>4.2 We need to increase students' level of physical education, while also increasing resources to provide more mental health &amp; wellness care. These should be provided by MCPS and wrap around support. Social media safety is essential and building robust partnerships that will help mentor students to prevent future problems is essential.</p> <p>4.3 We should improve nutritional standards in MCPS, through curricula and procurement practices. I would like to strengthen MCPS' relationship with farms in the Agricultural Reserve to provide fresh food and expanded hands on educational opportunities. This would be a win for everyone in Montgomery County.</p> <p>4.4 The rise in suicides and gun violence that is ravishing our schools is in part due to the lack of mental health and counseling services (along with woefully lax gun laws). We owe it to our youth to increase funding for mental health services while strengthening connections with existing services is essential. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.</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 As a board member of Safe Silver Spring, I have long advocated for the use of School Resource Officers, and have fought for funding to increase SRO levels. Labor agreements should include incentives for the best and brightest to protect our youth. School facilities also need to be modernized so that all entry points are secure</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 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?</p> <p>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?</p> | <p>6.1 We need to rethink the way MCPS and the Planning Department share information. We must ensure that any growth can accommodate the increased capacity and that it is pays for that increased capacity. Smaller class sizes results in better educational opportunities for each student.</p> <p>6.2 We are quickly running out of space to build new schools. I believe that school construction is critically important and should be considered a top amenity in future development plans. We need to stop thinking that the only way to build new schools is by</p> <p>6.3 Yes, I am open to all new ideas that achieve my goals of reducing class size and increasing educational opportunities for all children in Montgomery County.</p> |
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### Candidate: Gottfried, Richard



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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: Gottfried, Richard**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [richgott3@verizon.net](mailto:richgott3@verizon.net) / Phone: 3017625182

### 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 both a State and a County issue working together on this issue. This should be funded thru the Education Trust Fund. Also, depending on the results on the Kirwan Commission new formulas, Montgomery County maybe able to fund Pre-K from the new

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 Yes. Now that the Education Trust Fund has a lockbox, MC should receive additional funding to finance MCPS's growing capital improvement needs. Also, MCPS should explore re-opening previously closed schools as well as partnering with our vacant commercial office space.

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, I would advocate for these ideas. I would explore the possibility of re-opening previously closed schools as well as partnering with our vacant commercial office space.

### 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 Students are entitled to take part in all subjects and activities1.2 Teaching and learning are planned with all pupils in mind;1.3 The curriculum develops understanding and respect for differences;1.4 During lessons all pupils participate 1.5 A variety of teaching styles and strategies is used, etc

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

3.2 Parent Portal, Parent Academy, Culturally diverse outreach program, Parent Engagement Center, Business partnerships to provide apprenticeships, provide districtwide STEM and provide backpacks and school supplies in need.

### 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 agree with The State of Maryland's new legislation and funding to keep our children safe in the schools. With regard to respect and value, we need to change how we describe dress codes, lining-up criteria, modify forms, change lesson plans, include questions specific and post policies.



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Gottfried, Richard

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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 Regarding wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure, we should support House Bill 1110 being proposed in Annapolis. I will continue to advocate for funding to our Department of Health and Human Services and Family Services, Inc. to provide physical and mental health to our students. |
| 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 es. The food served by MCPS is a big issue for our children, as parents always complain about the food that is served at school. I remember when I went to school and had to take a nutrition class where we made peanut brittle in class. It was delicious but not so nutritious!             |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I will advocate to ensure continue funding for mental health and counseling services provided for MCPS students!   |

### 5. Safety

#### Answers

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| 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 perception is that the cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department is excellent. The State of Virginia offers a grant program for the security resource officer assignment for elementary and middle schools. Offer monetary-reward programs and work-life benefits to the SRO's |
| 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

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| 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 I will advocate to obtain funding that we were promised from the Education Trust Fund to build new schools and renovate existing schools. Be creative by re-purposing our decommissioned schools and using vacant commercial space to host classrooms and/or utilize vacant classrooms at our colleges. |
| 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 Instead of purchasing land on which to build new schools, I will advocate to renovate previously closed schools. We should consider buying land for future opportunities to expand our parks and recreational services.   |
| 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 No. I will advocate in the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, I would focus on addressing transportation needs instead of land acquisition; in addition are the impact taxes on development a break-even proposition, and our infrastructure keeping pa  |

### Candidate: Greenberger, Neil H.



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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: Greenberger, Neil H.**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [ngreenberger@hotmail.com](mailto:ngreenberger@hotmail.com) / Phone: 3018572080

### 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 The most significant thing we can do to help close the disparity between some children entering the school system is to try and tighten the gap between students before entering school. Funding for early childhood education must be shared at the County and

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 County has many infrastructure needs—both for schools and other priorities. The County's debt has been mounting through poor planning decisions. The best thing Montgomery County can do is to take a hard look at school (and transportation) needs before approving new development at the current, unsustainable rate. We need to address current needs now.

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 To rely greatly on more state funds to make a real difference in our current needs is a great idea—but not a realistic one. Casino revenue can only be divided in so many ways. We can hope for more state money, but we need to reallocate the money we have in Montgomery and put more to our needs. We need to stop creating more needs before we take care of our current ones.

### 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 Expanding early childhood education is crucial. Expanding varied curriculum throughout the County is a must. A limited number of innovative courses are finally going to be available to schools throughout the County starting next year. These will open great opportunities to more students. We should explore year-round school options in some areas.

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

3.2 ALL schools must follow procedures of informing parents when special incidents of concern happen in a school. I continue to be amazed when some schools/principals do not inform parents of these things. We must expand communication in many languages to meet the County's changing population. Better communication with PTAs would help in some schools.

### 4. Health and School Climate

#### Answers



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Greenberger, Neil H.

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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 Having just attended the funeral of the child of close friends is a reminder that we cannot keep talking about bullying problems—we need to strongly enforce discipline against students caught in this behavior. I was very glad to see extra funds for counselors included in the FY2019 requested MCPS budget. I think we must keep adding more in every budget.</p> <p>4.2 Working with the police, school resource officers and within legal parameters, we need staff dedicated to searching web communications to seek out problems as they occur—and not afterward. Students put so much on the web, and after too many individual or large scale tragedies, we discover the evidence was available—if we had only sought it out in advance.</p> <p>4.3 The County's summer food program must be expanded, along with its weekend backpack program throughout the school year. Unfortunately, we cannot depend on some parents to address the priority of their families: feeding their children. This is an area where pursuing private-public partnerships could have a major impact.</p> <p>4.4 MCPS has been greatly understaffed with counselors over the years as 16 years of superintendents cared more about increasing test scores than they did about the all-around health of students. We must add additional counselors every year. We need to return to learning centers that were closed. They were a great help to address learning and other needs.</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 Eventually, I would like to see a SRO in every one of our more than 225 schools—not just for emergencies, but to establish long-time programs of trust between young people and police officers. Police have been very careful in choosing SROs with the right personalities. Not all have worked out, but I think the screening program in place has been a good one.</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 Realistic development plans is the key. We cannot continue to approve development plans unless adequate school capacity, roads, transit and parking spaces are in place. I will not vote for a development plan that has all of these things. We cannot catch up by continually adding. County budgets funding minimum MOE will not be sufficient in future years</p> <p>6.2 Approval of development plans, and changes in master plans, are the No. 1 long-range issue facing Montgomery County. The County Councils of the past 15 years have continually approved development plans without realistic adequate facilities--such as school</p> <p>6.3 We have adequate requirements in place, such as the school impact tax. However, the County Council has had staff maneuver around the requirements for the intent to approve development plans and hide the school capacity needs. If the requirements in place</p> |
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### Candidate: Grimes, Seth





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Grimes, Seth**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [seth@sethgrimes.org](mailto:seth@sethgrimes.org) / Phone: 3018738225

### 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 Early child care and education is one of my highest priorities. I see this as a joint public-nonprofit-business concern -- I have followed Montgomery Moving Forward's work -- and would consider new funding sources including state funding advocacy.

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 Developers can and should fund infrastructure creation -- including schools -- associated with their projects. I would eliminate impact fee exemptions including in Silver Spring's former enterprise zone. I do not oppose additional bonding. School construction should not take a back seat.

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 New ideas and approaches to school construction are welcome, including reducing the acreage footprint in order to lower costs and add location options and changes that would address construction costs.

### 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 Expanding early child care and education quality and availability is one of my highest priorities and key to ensuring that an achievement gap never opens. But given that gap, after-school and summer enrichment programs, ESL, and attention to special needs will help us help all students.

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 I applaud Montgomery County Public Schools' Equity Initiatives Unit, aiming for awareness, knowledge, and understanding of one's own and students' and staff's racial and cultural identity. Let's extend this framework to gender and sexuality and let's apply it broadly to county government.





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Grimes, Seth

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 am an advisor to Real Food for Kids-Montgomery, and as a City of Takoma Park councilmember, I passed legislation banning harmful lawncare pesticides and polystyrene food serviceware products. I have a proven record addressing health & wellness needs.          |
| 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 As an advisor to Real Food for Kids-Montgomery, I work toward school health and nutrition including internal practices and curriculum inclusion.  |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I am committed to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services. I have special experience here as a member of the Montgomery County Board of Social Services and am committed, in one special area, to addressing youth homelessness in Montgomery County. |

### 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 cofounded and was president of Safe Takoma, a community public-safety initiative that won funding for and delivered youth programs including peer mediation, coming-of-age, and restorative justice initiatives, in cooperation with school and police authorities. I believe in collaborative approaches. |
| 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 I commit to adding school capacity to catch up with unmet need, relieving overcrowding, with exploration of planning-process changes to keep pace with growth. |
| 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 Developer provision of land for new schools is a worthwhile top amenity in optional-method development applications.   |
| 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 I would consider a dedicated fund for school land acquisition.   |

### Candidate: Jain, Ashwani



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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: Jain, Ashwani**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [ajain@voteashwanijain.com](mailto:ajain@voteashwanijain.com) / Phone: 2408016410

### 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 Child care costs can be astounding. We must make it easier for parents to find affordable child care. This includes assessing state run programs (ex. Working Parents Assistance Program) and making Pre-K universal. Funding from this should come from both t

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 Existing policies must be reevaluated to support our growing student population and allocate funds appropriately. We should explore ending the moratorium on development in overcrowded areas and dedicate additional funds from development in those clusters to school infrastructure needs.

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. Schools in lower-income neighborhoods or schools with crumbling infrastructure should receive resources and opportunities equal to their needs, and these incentives for state/local collaboration will help that to occur.

### 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 A comprehensive approach includes Universal Pre-K, affordable childcare, expanding language immersion programs, and increasing resources for after-school and summer programs to prevent the "summer slide". I also believe our schools should institutionalize cultural competency trainings.

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

3.2 Implement new programs, while also engaging those who use the program in the roll out process. For example, while myMCPS is more cost-effective and offers more features than Edline, teachers were not given enough time or training to adapt.

### 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 believe we must make Montgomery County an official sanctuary county. I will also work to support the public-private partnerships established through CUAH and the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council to create safe spaces for communities of color and diverse religious backgrounds.



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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: Jain, Ashwani**

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|--|---|
| <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>4.2 It is the duty of the Board of Education to set specific regulations for our school systems. That said, I will work in partnership to ensure physical and mental wellness is an integral part of a student's social-emotional wellbeing. We must create a safe space for students to share concerns.</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>4.3 I will work with organizations like the Montgomery Countryside Alliance to expand the reach of its Ag Science Lab. Furthermore, I will work with organizations like Real Food for Kids to educate and communicate the importance of food choices on a student's academic performance and physical fitness.</p> |
| <p>4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.</p>  | <p>4.4 Students should feel empowered to hold frank conversations about mental health issues facing them. Topics for these discussions, supplemented by improved health curriculum, should include learning self-care, knowledge of risk factors, and instilling mindfulness practices in daily life.</p>             |

### 5. Safety Answers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <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>5.1 They have proven to be effective partners - ex. students notified the SRO that a student had a gun in Clarksburg. SROs should continue to partner with security staff to ensure safety. Adding additional officers could create a school-to-prison-pipeline, ultimately harming students of color.</p> |
| <p>5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?</p>  | <p>5.2 [No response requested]</p>  |

### 6. Growth Answers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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>6.1 The school budget should focus on maximizing use of land to build or restore school buildings in overcrowded areas and providing more support for teachers in their classrooms so that students are able to receive more one-on-one time with our educators.</p>    |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>6.2 Absolutely - school land should be considered whenever the county moves forward on any new development plans. Our education system is the primary reason why people move to Montgomery County. We must also consider how new development will impact our growin</p> |
| <p>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?</p>   | <p>6.3 Yes. Land developers would have to contribute money for school land acquisition when building large developments so that they're contributing to the community in a meaningful way, not just making profits. More housing would allow us to exp</p>                 |

**Candidate: Jawando, Will**



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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: Jawando, Will**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [will@willjawando.com](mailto:will@willjawando.com) / Phone: 2402587632

### 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 Making 0-5 child care and early childhood education both affordable and accessible is a priority. We must increase the subsidy in order to create a viable, and affordable network of trained, quality providers. We can fund by re-prioritizing county budget

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 School construction cannot be de-prioritized, as we add students at a pace to fill a new high school annually. We need new revenue and not cuts; impact fees imposed on developers, or reprogramming the existing budget to make schools a priority, are two ways to finance MCPS capital needs.

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 In certain cases, yes. We should be creative in our problem-solving, but not to the detriment of our students, our taxpayers, or to the ability of MCPS to meet its obligations. Each of the Commission recommendations should be Montgomery County standards, but I am open to their review.

### 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 Put resources in the schools where they are needed, particularly "wrap around" services, such as pre- & after-school programs. Reduce class sizes & add more in-room resources. MCPS can better promote certain schools (like Springbrook HS, which has the info-tech program) as pathways to better jobs.

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

3.2 Find better ways to reach working and low-income families, particularly immigrant families and people of color. Be available during post-work hours.

### 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 have been committed to tolerance and diversity my entire life. As the son of an immigrant father and a single, working mother, I know what it is to grow up both poor and black. I've worked on these goals while in the US Senate & the Obama Administration, & through my community nonprofit.



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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: Jawando, Will

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 Most of these particular issues in the question are related to public and student well-being and safety. These are standards that should be determined in collaboration between MCPS, teachers and parents. Each student is an individual, and that must be recognized while setting standards.      |
| 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 Yes, they do need better integration, both in general and practical knowledge. I'd like to see students not just learning about better food and diet, but preparing and eating better, healthier foods. We could match MCPS and the F&ND with our own MoCo Ag Preserve's farmers to buy local foods. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I am fully committed to not just preserving, but potentially expanding, counseling and mental health services for MCPS. We should have a counselor in every building.  |

### 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 It appears there is cooperation between MCPS and MCPD. But I'd like to learn more about that. I do want to make sure our SRO staff are trained for cultural awareness, and identifying potential problems before they arise, as well as current threats to school safety. |
| 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 The reality is that keeping pace with this growth will cost money, and will require flexibility and creativity. But I believe we can meet our goal having a world-class public school system in MoCo. We need to make school spending a budget priority, and consider new sources of revenue. |
| 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 Schools and affordable housing should both be top of mind for examining land-use proposals, and we should require developers to partner with the county in funding new school construction, particularly in high-impact areas.  |
| 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: Lipscomb, David V.





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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: Lipscomb, David V.**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [davidlipscomb6@gmail.com](mailto:davidlipscomb6@gmail.com) / Phone: 3012280929

### 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: Lipscomb, David V.**

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

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: McKenna, Melissa**



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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: McKenna, Melissa**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [melissa@mckennaformoco.org](mailto:melissa@mckennaformoco.org) / Phone: 2407931287

### 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 ECE needs to be a state initiative, not Montgomery Cnty alone, because Cnty cost ~\$120M. Testified to Kirwan Commission 10/25/17 and Cnty Annapolis Delegation 11/17/17 on necessity of state funding. Funding through casino gambling revenue or dedication 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 Move made to maintain AAA Bond rating. CIP needs beyond schools that must be balanced as well as debt service. Reduce cost: 1st step is "refresh" projects rather than rev/ex, then open bidding to get lower cost bids, also less lofty architecture and more practical. \$ from casino revenue.

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 Knott Commission is suggesting sacrificing quality for speed and cheaper cost. I would not support. Allow LEAs with proven track record of quality, on-time projects leeway to IAC constraints. Flexibility allowance for LEAs to find best match for their needs. Streamline current procedures. current procedures.

### 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 needs to be built into every program. In-person cultural bias training for all MCPS staff preferred over on-line "modules." Give teachers time to have good relationships with their students. Teachers should have high expectations of all students. Small class size for greater 1:1 attention.

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

3.2 MCPS needs to be proactive, timely, and consistent in message communicated. Get out to communities personally rather than just "pushing" information out electronically or on paper. Reduce use of "edu-speak" and use plain language that can be better understood. ASK what people want and answer! Reduce use of "edu-speak" and use plain language that can be better understood. ASK what people want and answer!

### 4. Health and School Climate

#### Answers



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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: McKenna, Melissa

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <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>4.1 Again, I support cultural competency and inherent bias training for all MCPS staff. Time is needed to form and nurture relationships between staff and students and among students themselves. Students should be supported to voice their concerns while keeping safety of all in mind, eg, walkouts.</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>4.2 I believe they are already integrated. Besides health and PE classes, nutrition and healthy lifestyle are covered in science class. MCPS meals adhere to USDA standards. Strict adherence to standards sacrifices taste. May have to bend rules a little so the students will (want to) eat food provided.</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>4.3 I believe they are already integrated. Besides health and PE classes, nutrition and healthy lifestyle are covered in science class. MCPS meals adhere to USDA standards. Strict adherence to standards sacrifices taste. May have to bend rules a little so the students will (want to) eat food provided.</p> |
| <p>4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.</p>   | <p>4.4 I continue to advocate for better counselor:student ratios in ES (most recently 1/16/18 to BOE). FY19 MCPS operating budget improves staffing by 50 students at larger ES. The mental health and wellness of our students is a necessity! More mental health counseling at HS, not just 4 career/college.</p>  |

### 5. Safety

#### Answers

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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>5.1 MOU is clearly written. School security and police have defined roles. School staff and students seem to have good open dialogue/relationships with SROs. MCPD is sensitive to having the right officers as SROs in schools. Needs to be good temperament and personality fit, not a \$ or other incentive.</p> |
| <p>5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?</p>  | <p>5.2 [No response requested]</p>   |

### 6. Growth

#### Answers

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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>6.1 Enrollment increase slowed this year and projected to be +~1900 students next year. School capacity is perennial problem. Portables or modules until permanent construction, as \$ available. Class sizes in ES are trending down in future. Maintain operating \$ to keep class size small.</p> |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>6.2 Yes. Council made schools sites top public amenity in recently approved Master Plans. These also contain specific solutions for residential development than before. MCPS/Planning/Council need to cooperate. I did this work w/ Next Steps Reps &amp; will continu</p>                          |
| <p>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?</p>   | <p>6.3 Part of last SSP revision was MCCPTA recommendation for ALAR fund for school site purchase. Open to such a fund so funded, however, in lean economic times may not be able to restrict \$ that could be used for immediate CIP needs. Perhaps reuse old sites ev</p>                             |

### Candidate: Meitiv, Danielle



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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: Meitiv, Danielle**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [danielle@meitiv2018.com](mailto:danielle@meitiv2018.com) / Phone: 2025561166

### 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: Meitiv, Danielle

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

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: Musser, Penny



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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: Musser, Penny**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [pennymusser79@gmail.com](mailto:pennymusser79@gmail.com) / Phone: 2402771979

### 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: Musser, Penny

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

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: Ortman-Fouse, Jill



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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: Ortman-Fouse, Jill**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [jill@jill4allkids.com](mailto:jill@jill4allkids.com) / Phone: 3013799339

### 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 support universal access to pre-k. A sliding scale can be used to determine affordability. MD has the nation's lowest income threshold to qualify for subsidies, meaning only the poorest receive them. Pre-K has an 8 to 1 ROI. Use state funding supplemente

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 SAGs are used to protect AAA bond rating. However, I supported increasing by 10%. Other counties like PG have not lost their rating. Property tax was supposed to be for MCPS CIP, but only about half went to schools. Return more to schools as was intended. Make better deals with developers.

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 support incentives because they offer choices. With 11K students in 437 portables, & predicted growth of about 10K more over next 6 years, we must try new ways of accommodating demand, putting all options on the table: co-location, leasing space for popup magnets, modular construction, partnerships

### 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 Fund universal access to pre-k & summer programs, prof training for staff, afterschool academic support programs & MCPS budget initiatives, support affordable housing & job opportunities for disadvantaged families, provide incentives for high quality teachers to remain at higher poverty schools.

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

3.2 Greater outreach into communities. More town halls with students in different areas of the county. Partner with community leaders to receive feedback & insight from underrepresented communities. Central office staff go out to schools & listen to community.

### 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 support legislation that protects our immigrant students & families in our schools & other sensitive places. I support laws & policies that protect our most vulnerable residents, including LGBTQ, from harassment. I support



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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: Ortman-Fouse, Jill**

programs that educate about & celebrate diversity.

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 We must better fund mental health & other wellness supports for our families, Support healthy environments inside & outside of school, including safe play areas & fields free from environment toxins like crumb rubber. Adapt crisis center for interaction with students below 18. Share info for support

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 Encourage MCPS F&N to reach out to other school districts who use innovative, healthy meal design & prep. Hire chef (not just nutrition specialist), support partnerships w ag reserve for more locally grown produce & meat. Encourage meatless Mondays. Tour cafeterias to observe what kids eat.

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

4.4 I am on a committee with MCCPTA to hold mental health forum. I also support a Mental Health Day to encourage schoolwide education & conversations to destigmatize mental health issues & get support students need. Must provide more affordable mental health provider options for students

### 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 there is great cooperation between MCPS and the MCPD. A full security review is being conducted now. SROs should receive appropriate training to engage with all students, understand trauma-informed practices. Ask SROs what incentives they find as high valu

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 haven't kept pace with growth. We must plan development strategically with schools to ensure space is created BEFORE additional enrollment growth begins. Small class sizes require additional operating funds, as well as additional facility space. Only adding additions can strain core spaces

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 Absolutely. Our schools are the chief attraction to our county & where our future workforce & tax payers grow and learn. Communities want smaller community schools that are easily accessible. As a highly-valued amenity, partnerships should be attractive t

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. MCPS doesn't support the fund because the backlog of need is so high (800M for 10K students over capacity, plus \$790M for backlog of systemwide facility maintenance needs). However, land is becoming more scarce. Funding must be readily available to m

**Candidate: Riemer, Hans**



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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: Riemer, Hans**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@hansriemer.com](mailto:info@hansriemer.com) / Phone: 2403894267

### 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, early ed should be accessible to all; today it is largely unaffordable. We should start by investing in Pre-K for low income children, combining County, State, and Fed money. I have successfully increased County investments in Head Start and Child Ca

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 Unfortunately the County must reduce its borrowing but the question is how fast. I proposed a slower reduction but the council didn't support it. Even as we reduce our borrowing, we can maintain or increase our investment in school construction by making them a higher priority in the capital 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 Yes I would support incentives to drive collaboration between state and local governments. If there is a better way, we should implement it. The Council recently passed positive changes to how MCPS spends construction dollars, resulting in our funds being used for much more high priority projects.

### 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 A start would be sufficient funding for quality pre-k for children who do not have access to quality programs today. Sufficient funding to reduce class size and support targeted programs is also essential. More support for paraeducators is another key need.

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 It is imperative to create a climate where all children can feel safe, respected and valued. That is why I have always stood up for progressive values and fought against efforts to demonize or exclude immigrant communities or minorities. Elected leaders must continue to set the tone for inclusion.



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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: Riemer, Hans**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 Digital safety is a crucial topic, and MCPS must do more to educate kids about how to behave online and how to stay safe. This should be part of the curriculum. The Council does not have much influence over these areas, they are Board of Education.                 |
| 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 Yes, MCPS should do a better job promoting health and nutrition and encouraging students to eat their fruit and vegetables. The Council has pushed to remove junk food from vending machines. I support finding a solution to bring more local produce into the schools. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I have supported new investments in MCPS to pay for mental health and counseling services, and I will continue to do so.   |

### 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 understanding is that the SRO program works well, but it could always be improved. recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments? |
| 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 a Council member I have voted to increase school construction funding in every budget, to record highs. My record and my commitment to schools is clear. The County's investment in school construction has grown substantially during my time on the County Council. |
| 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 Yes, when schools in a planning area have capacity issues and the county does not have ready options for re-opening schools, acquiring land from private property owners should be a high priority.  |
| 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 I would consider any funding request for land from MCPS. If MCPS requests an "ALARF" type fund (Advance Land Acquisition) I would support that.  |

**Candidate: Riley, Michele**





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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: Riley, Michele**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [michele@michele4moco.com](mailto:michele@michele4moco.com) / Phone: 3016812914

### 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 support this effort. I see this as a state issue, in that it should be offered statewide, instead of just within Montgomery County. For funding, we need to ensure the appropriate share of casino revenue is going to the Education Trust Fund, not 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 School construction should not take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities. We need to make sure the Education Trust Fund receives its appropriate share of casino revenue, and use this money to fund school initiatives.

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, I support incentives to drive state and local collaboration to allow for new ideas and approaches in school construction.

### 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 believe we have experts in place within MCPS who understand the best way to ensure every child receives a high-quality education. I would let those experts do their jobs.

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

3.2 I have always felt that MCPS does a good job of communicating quickly and efficiently with parents, through emails, Connect Ed messages, and other communications (always in English and Spanish). I do not see this as an area for focus.

### 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 firmly believe we have experts within the MCPS structure who understand the best way to foster such a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. I would give those experts the latitude to keep doing their jobs the best way they can.





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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Riley, Michele

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 Again, I believe we have experts within the MCPS who understand the best way to use regulations to advance school standards in these areas. I would give these experts the latitude to keep doing their jobs the best way they can.   |
| 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 Montgomery County needs to rethink and decentralize the MCPS school lunch program. The food served in MCPS schools is prepackaged and not healthy. We need new approaches to get better food in front of our kids at lunchtime and that food needs to be sourced from a variety of locations. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.  | 4.4 I am committed to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. This is more important than ever in light of the Parkland school shooting.   |

### 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 The SRO assignment requires a balancing act of kindness to the kids but also making sure rules are followed. I think MCPD is appropriately cognizant of the separation between MCPS and MCPD and acts accordingly, when necessary, in order to keep our kids safe at school. |
| 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 I am fully committed to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small. MCPS is a jewel in the crown of Montgomery County and we need to ensure we maintain proper student teacher ratios and class sizes. |
| 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, absolutely.   |
| 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: Rivera-Oven, Graciela



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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: Rivera-Oven, Graciela**

**Office:** County Council At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [grace.rivera@comcast.net](mailto:grace.rivera@comcast.net) / Phone: 2406301522

### 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: Rivera-Oven, Graciela

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

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: Romero, Darwin



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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: Romero, Darwin**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [info@darwinromero.us](mailto:info@darwinromero.us) / Phone:

### 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: Romero, Darwin

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: Siddique, Mohammad



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Siddique, Mohammad**

**Office:** County Council At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [msiddique00@gmail.com](mailto:msiddique00@gmail.com) / Phone: 3013302843

### 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: Siddique, Mohammad

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

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: Skolnick, Shelly



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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: Skolnick, Shelly**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [shelly.skolnick@starpower.net](mailto:shelly.skolnick@starpower.net) / Phone: 3015124855

### 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 Initially, the State should fund pre-K for children who will qualify for free meals at school. Funding would be from the State's gambling income.

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 Yes. MCPS needs to be more efficient with its schools. Some actions would be (a) more summer school for students who are below grade level, and (b) volunteer aides for teachers with large class rooms.

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.

### 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 Free tuition for Montgomery College students who volunteer as teacher aides in the MCPS.

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

3.2 Provide more time (such as evenings and weekends for meetings between teachers and parents

### 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 Support for diversity and inclusion in our schools should be by the policies and practices of the MCPS.



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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: Skolnick, Shelly

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 prefer such regulations by MCPS -- rather than by the State or County governments.

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 Such education should be by the example of the food provided in the school breakfast and lunch meals.

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. 4.4 I support increased budgets for such services.

### 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 perception is that the MCPS and MCPD have a cooperative relationship.

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 I am proposing free tuition at Montgomery College for students who volunteer as teacher aides in the MCPS. This addresses the large class sizes that are financially inevitable.

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 Yes.

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

### Candidate: Smith, Jarrett



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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: Smith, Jarrett**

**Office:** County Council At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [smithformoco@gmail.com](mailto:smithformoco@gmail.com) / Phone: 3019607462

### 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: Smith, Jarrett

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

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: Solomon, Steve



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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: Solomon, Steve**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [votestevesolomon@gmail.com](mailto:votestevesolomon@gmail.com) / Phone: 3012195812

### 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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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Solomon, Steve

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: Wilhelm, Chris



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Wilhelm, Chris**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [chris@wilhelmforcouncil.com](mailto:chris@wilhelmforcouncil.com) / Phone: 2406210954

### 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 early childhood education is essential to closing the opportunity gap. The County could explore approaches to funding pre-k for low income families, as Council President Riemer has proposed, but I think the reality is that we will need signifi

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 School construction should not take a back seat to other infrastructure improvements. The county must be careful to preserve its bond rating in order to continue to benefit from low interest rates on future capital projects. In order to ensure that Montgomery County can meet its capital budget needs, we need to make sure that the results of the Kirwan commission do not damage MCPS' state funding.

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. Montgomery County should be working with the State to find innovative models for school construction. We know there are neighboring jurisdictions in Virginia that spend significantly less money constructing schools. We can learn from our neighbors to cut costs.

### 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 three main strategies to achieve equity in Montgomery County schools. First, I will support economic justice policies that enable families to enjoy stable employment and housing. Second, I will take serious action to recruit hundreds of teachers of color into MCPS over the next five to ten years. Students of color are demanding more teachers that look like them. And third, I will fight for every dollar of education funding that I can get at the state and county level. We have to have the revenue available to hire, train, and retain excellent teachers, provide rich materials for our students, and adequate facilities in which to teach and learn.

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

3.2 A great deal of student data and curricular information is now readily available to families online and through smartphone apps. I would focus on promoting more direct parent and student contact with the members of the Board of Education, as they have the ability to adapt school system practices



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate: Wilhelm, Chris**

and procedures to better meet students' needs. BOE members need to hear directly from 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 MCPS students in the Minority Scholars Program recently testified at a Board of Education meeting in favor of recruiting more teachers of color. I will work to create a direct pipeline for MCPS students to pursue careers in education by attending public universities tuition free in order to meet the needs of our diverse community. Equity training for teachers is important, but recruiting a diverse workforce should be a priority.

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 MCPS must address its completely inadequate response to multiple instances of sexual abuse and harassment by staff members over a span of several years. There must be a crystal clear policy in place to hold principals accountable for reporting complaints from students and parents, rather than allowing dangerous situations to linger.

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 MCPS must address its completely inadequate response to multiple instances of sexual abuse and harassment by staff members over a span of several years. There must be a crystal clear policy in place to hold principals accountable for reporting complaints from students and parents, rather than allowing dangerous situations to linger.

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

4.4 MCPS must address its completely inadequate response to multiple instances of sexual abuse and harassment by staff members over a span of several years. There must be a crystal clear policy in place to hold principals accountable for reporting complaints from students and parents, rather than allowing dangerous situations to linger.

### 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 School Resource Officers play an important role in protecting our students and teachers. However, we have to make sure that as many issues as possible are handled within the student code of conduct, so that law enforcement is not needlessly involved. Unfortunately, data has shown that students of color have disproportionate contact with School Resource Officers at some MCPS schools--we should work to address this kind of structural discrimination.

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 I will vote for budgets that fully fund the needs of our school system. I show up to teach every day wishing that I had smaller class sizes so that it would be a little easier to meet the needs of all of my unique students.

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 Yes. In order to prevent overcrowding and to meet the needs of our rapidly growing county, we must set aside land to construct new schools.

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. Land developers ought to pay their fair share to help fund education. The quality of the MCPS school system is one of the reasons why property values are so high in Montgomery County--it is only natural that developers pay into the system that they b

**Candidate: Willard, Tim**



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\* 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: Willard, Tim**

Office: County Council At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: [dravidic@yahoo.com](mailto:dravidic@yahoo.com) / Phone: 2405332399

### 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 support universal pre-K. It has been shown to pay for itself by reducing childwelfare and criminal justice costs, lowering spending on special education. I would favor paying for it with a sliding scale tuition for wealthier families.

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 Reducing General Obligation bonds was necessary to maintain the County's AAA bond rating. The County's debt has been increasing rapidly in an effort to meet the needs of rapid, poorly planned growth did not account for needed infrastructure. Without a better growth policy schools will suffer.

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 With needs growing and traditional GO bonds constrained we should look into both alternative methods of funding construction such as authorized by the Public School Facilities Act and new ideas for school construction that save money such as multi purpose building that would house other agencies.

### 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 The achievement gap in schools is worsened by the limited availability of programs. Information is available to parents who know how to go find it, and application processes are cumbersome. MCPS needs to expand the capacity of choice programs and to improve outreach to underserved communities.

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

3.2

### 4. Health and School Climate

#### Answers



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## VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate: Willard, Tim

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

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