



VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Finance Committee:
 Elective Office Sought:
 POC Email/Telephone:

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
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
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

2. Capital Improvements 2. 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
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 3. 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 4. Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY & INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is.	4.1
4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health & wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2
4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?	4.3
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4

5. Safety Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments?	5.1
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2

6. Growth Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2-3,000 students/year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1
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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 parcels for new schools. Should school land be a top public amenity in development 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