



League of Women Voters 2008 General Election Voters' Guide For Frederick County

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Miscellaneous Voting Information

- POLLS are OPEN 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- EMERGENCY ABSENTEE BALLOTS may be obtained at your local Board of Elections office in the 7 days prior to and on election day. You may fill out the application form, obtain the absentee ballot and VOTE in one visit.
- POLLING PLACES are usually less crowded between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Try voting on your lunch hour.

[For More Information](#)

(Located at the end of this document)

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

About the Office

SALARY: \$400,000 per year

TERM: Four years. Limit of two terms.

HOW ELECTED: Every four years political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday in November of years divisible by the number four. Although the parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party's convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary election influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.

DUTIES: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

Questions asked candidates for President:

The League of Women Voters of the United States posed questions to the candidates for President in accordance with the following criteria:

- All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five issue specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria: 1) the candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; 2) the candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and 3) the candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC Web site as of August 8, 2008.
- Responses were limited to 50 words and truncated after the 50th word.
- Additional information on presidential candidates is available on the League's voter information Web site, www.VOTE411.org.

In Maryland Write-in candidates are allowed to file, after spending \$50.00 in pursuit of the office, until seven days prior to the election. If they file as write-ins, their names will be posted in each polling place on Election Day and votes for them will be counted. Their names will NOT be on any ballots.

BIOGRAPHY:

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: What, if anything, do you believe the federal government should do to control global climate change?

COST OF HEALTH CARE: What should be done at the federal level, if anything, to combat the high cost of health care?

ECONOMIC DISPARITY: What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middleclass and the well-to-do?

EDUCATION: What, if anything, should the federal government do to create the world's best educational system for all children in America?

U.S. STRATEGY – RISING GLOBAL POWERS: What should the U.S. strategy be towards rising global powers like Russia and China?

The responses to these questions are copyrighted by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Vote for One:

Barack Obama (Illinois) -- **Joe Biden** (Delaware)

Party: Democratic

Website: www.barackobama.com

BIOGRAPHY: Obama began his career as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side and headed a voter registration drive. Obama practiced civil rights law and taught constitutional law. He served eight years in the State Senate before his election to the U.S. Senate. He graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: I believe the federal government should pursue multiple paths to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the threat of global climate change, including implementing aggressive cap and trade requirements to reduce U.S. emissions by 80% from 1990 levels and investing heavily in clean energy and advanced vehicle technologies.

COST OF HEALTH CARE: My healthcare plan will make aggressive investments in cost-cutting technologies and will place more focus on prevention and chronic care management. The net result will be to bring down the costs of healthcare spending by \$2,500 for a typical family, annually, and lower the expense of Medicare's services.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY: I will cut taxes for the middle class and roll back some of the Bush tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 to restore fairness to the tax code. I will make long term public investments in R&D, clean energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing to create millions of good-paying jobs.

EDUCATION: I will strengthen public schools by expanding early childhood education, reforming and funding No Child Left Behind, recruiting and rewarding high-quality teachers, and expanding afterschool and summer learning opportunities. I will create a \$4,000 American Opportunity Tax Credit and expand financial aid to make higher education affordable for all.

U.S. STRATEGY – RISING GLOBAL POWERS: We must enhance our abilities both to collaborate and compete with China, while being vigilant about China's military modernization and respect for human rights. As we seek a future of clear-eyed engagement with Russia, we must ensure Russia acts as a force for progress, not regression to past conflicts.

John McCain (Arizona) -- **Sarah Palin** (Alaska)

Party: Republican

Website: www.johnmccain.com

BIOGRAPHY: John McCain graduated from the Naval Academy and served for 22 years as a naval aviator. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and the Senate in 1986. He has served as chairman of the Commerce Committee and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: I support developing a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2050, providing tax credits for alternative energy, promoting zero-carbon nuclear power, reducing the federal government's carbon footprint, funding research into clean-coal technology, and offering incentives for America's automobile industry to develop electric cars.

COST OF HEALTH CARE: Under my plan, American families will receive \$5,000 tax credits to purchase insurance, either through employers or the private market—insurance that can follow them if they change jobs or leave the workforce. I will work for reforms to lower costs and provide coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY: We must spur growth, create jobs, improve educational attainment, and enhance financial security. My plan will keep income and payroll taxes low, reduce the price of gas, double the dependent exemption, bring down health-care costs, give deserving homeowners new fixed mortgages, slash our high business taxes, and expand trade.

EDUCATION: Our education system must focus on standards, accountability, and choice. My plan calls for recruiting highly qualified teachers in the neediest communities, empowering parents to choose the best schools for their children, expanding online educational opportunities, providing low-income families with access to tutors, and funding professional development for teachers.

U.S. STRATEGY – RISING GLOBAL POWERS: As President, I will work to establish good relations with other nations. At the same time, I will stand up for democratic values and human rights, and I will oppose aggression and international lawlessness that threaten our security.

Cynthia McKinney (California) -- **Rosa Clemente** (North Carolina)

Party: Green

Website: www.mckinney2008.com

Did not meet LWVUS/EF criteria stated above.

Bob Barr (Georgia) -- **Wayne A. Root** (Nevada)

Party: Libertarian

Website: www.bobbarr2008.com

Did not meet LWVUS/EF criteria stated above.

Ralph Nader (Connecticut) -- **Matt Gonzalez** (California)

Party: Independent

Website: www.votenader.org

BIOGRAPHY: Attorney, author, and consumer advocate, named by Time Magazine one of the "100 Most Influential Americans in the 20th Century." Over 4 decades of public service. Helped establish the OSHA, EPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and Freedom of Information Act.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: The government should stop subsidizing fossil fuels: oil, electric and coal mining interests. Invest in renewable energy that is efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly: wind and solar power. Encourage more efficient automobiles, homes and businesses. Ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Create an independent Oceanic Protection Agency. Adopt a carbon pollution tax.

COST OF HEALTH CARE: Adopt a private delivery, free choice of hospital and doctor, single payer public health insurance system. This would save \$350 billion annually by eliminating exorbitant executive pay, advertising, computerized billing fraud and abuse, and apply those savings to comprehensively cover everyone without increasing taxpayer costs. Lower costs through bulk purchasing.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY: Unfair legislation allows the middle class to suffer while the rich entrench their status. To correct this we should enact a living \$10 wage, adopt a fair tax, and provide equal pay for women. We must end corporate subsidies and bailouts. Repeal NAFTA and the anti-union Taft/Hartley Law.

EDUCATION: Increase civic education and decrease standardized testing. Repeal “No Child Left Behind” Act. Do not tie test performance to school funding. Provide full funding for pre-school and nutrition programs. Get product marketing out of the schools. Ensure that the nation's crumbling schools are repaired within 3 years.

U.S. STRATEGY – RISING GLOBAL POWERS: The US should be a humanitarian superpower. Our foreign policy must redefine global security, peace, arms control, an end to nuclear weapons and expand the many assets of our country to assist with major initiatives against global infectious diseases. Stop support of foreign dictators. Human rights come before trade, profit.

Chuck Baldwin (Florida) -- **Darrell L. Castle** (Tennessee)

Party: Constitution

Website: www.baldwin08.com

Did not meet LWVUS/EF criteria stated above.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES WHO HAVE FILED IN MARYLAND:

Donald K. Allen (Ohio)

Party: Unaffiliated

Website: www.donaldkallenforpresident.com

Lawson Mitchell Bone (Tennessee)

Party: Independent

Theodis (Ted) Brown, Sr. (Missouri)

Party: Independent

James D. Criveau (Virginia)

Party: Non_Partisan

RaeDeen R. Heupel (Montana)

Party: Independent

Website: www.raedeen.com/

Ronald G. Hobbs (Pennsylvania)

Party: Independent

Keith Russell Judd (Texas)

Party: Non-Partisan

Frank Moore (California)

Party: Independent

Website: www.frankmooreforpresident08.com

Lynne A. Starr (Florida)

Party: Independent

Blaine Taylor (Maryland)

Party: Democratic

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

About the U.S. House of Representatives:

SALARY: \$169,300 per year.

TERM: Two years, no term limit.

HOW ELECTED: The United States is divided into 435 Congressional Districts that are reapportioned after every decennial census. All seats in the House of Representatives are up for election in every even-numbered year.

DUTIES: Representatives share responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided for in the U.S. Constitution.

Questions asked candidates for Representative in Congress:

BACKGROUND: What are your qualifications for this office?

IMMIGRATION: What changes, if any, do you support in regard to immigration policy?

CLIMATE CHANGE: Describe Federal legislation you would support to address global climate changes.

ECONOMY: Identify a major challenge to the U.S. economy and how Congress should address it.

EDUCATION: What are your views on the No Child Left Behind legislation?

HEALTH CARE: What plans need to be put into place to meet the country's health care needs?

NATIONAL SECURITY: Identify a national security issue and how Congress should address it.

Vote for no more than one candidate.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – DISTRICT 6

Jennifer P. Dougherty

Party: Democratic

Website: www.jennifer08.com

BACKGROUND: As a small business owner for more than 21 years and a former Mayor of Frederick, I have experience setting priorities and balancing a government budget. I am the only person in the race who has balanced a government budget, created jobs and managed government contracts.

IMMIGRATION: I support legal immigration and will work to make federal law clear, enforceable and effective. I support improving electronic employment verification, raising penalties on employers who violate the law and create a method for immigrant to pay for immigration processing through a payroll deduction.

CLIMATE CHANGE: I support raising vehicle efficiency standards, adopting a cap & trade system for emissions and investing in pilot programs to encourage conversion to sustainable energy sources. I propose a bio-fuels refinery in central/western Maryland that will advance the best technology, create jobs and offer an All - American Alternative.

ECONOMY: The government budgeting process is one of the biggest problems. I support requiring new budgeting restrictions that encourage meeting the mission, controlling costs and rewarding creativity. Reckless spending, growing deficits and crushing debt is hurting our ability to invest in actual services.

EDUCATION: I support reforming No Child Left Behind by funding all federal requirements, reducing classroom size, hiring new teachers, addressing pay equity for teaching professionals, and funding Head Start.

HEALTH CARE: I support health care for all within 5 years. I support expansion of State Children's Health Insurance, allowing early retirees (over 55) to buy into Medicare coverage, allowing young people (18-24) to remain on family coverage. I support consumer choice – stay in current plan or buy into federal plan.

NATIONAL SECURITY: The endless War in Iraq has depleted the resources and strength of our military. First, support a plan for a responsible withdrawal from Iraq; guarantee the people in uniform have adequate pay, benefits, supplies; invest in restoring equipment for military; invest in adequate rehab facilities and treatment for veterans.

Roscoe Bartlett

Party: Republican

Website: <http://www.bartlettforcongress.org/>

BACKGROUND: I have been elected eight times to represent the Sixth District of Maryland in the U.S. Congress. Conservative, taxpayer advocacy and business organizations confirm that I have consistently voted for less taxes, less spending, less regulations, and to protect life and Americans' Constitutional rights.

IMMIGRATION: Our immigration system is broken. I have voted against amnesty for illegal aliens. My priorities are to secure America's borders, enforce laws against illegal immigration, prosecute those who violate laws and facilitate illegal immigration, establish English as our official language and improve resources for employers to find legal employees.

CLIMATE CHANGE: To counter mounting evidence that burning fossil fuels may contribute significantly to global warming and that world oil production may be unable to keep up with growing demand, I support energy efficiency, conservation and research and development to transition from dependence on finite fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

ECONOMY and NATIONAL SECURITY: Our increasing dependence upon imports for 2/3 of the oil we use is making Americans poorer. Our transportation is 95% dependent upon oil endangering both our economy and national security. We are transferring \$600-700 billion per year, more than we spend on defense, to oil producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Venezuela. As cofounder and cochairman of the bipartisan Congressional Peak Oil Caucus and Defense Energy Working Group, I am recognized as a leader in Congress promoting energy efficiency, conservation and research and development to transition transportation to electricity generated by alternative and renewable sources of energy.

EDUCATION: I voted against No Child Left Behind because I oppose decreasing local control of education by parents, teachers and administrators in the Sixth District. They know better than any bureaucrats in Annapolis or Washington, DC what aid will assist our youth to acquire the skills they need to compete globally.

HEALTH CARE: We have a sick care system, not a health care system. I support changes to increase and reward healthy lifestyle choices by individuals, increase competition by insurers and health care providers and limit malpractice awards unrelated to medical expenses to help reduce health care costs.

Gary W. Hoover, Sr.

Party: Libertarian

Website: www.hoover4congress08.com

BACKGROUND: I have been in the automobile business for the past 16 years. During this time, I have had to negotiate everyday. I believe that we need people in the congress that are willing to negotiate with others to get the peoples business done.

IMMIGRATION: I support greater enforcement of the current immigration laws, not just at the boarder but also at the factories and business that are hiring people that are not permitted to work in our country. There needs to be a total reform of Immigration policy but no amnesty.

CLIMATE CHANGE: We need to completely rethink our energy policy, along with our environmental policy

ECONOMY: 9.5 trillion dollar debt that Congress has strapped the future generation with. Stop spending money we do not have, any new spending has to be matched with cuts elsewhere. Balance budget amendment with emergency provision in case of war or major catastrophe. In addition, cut in programs.

EDUCATION: Failure !!Need to abolish the Department of Education and return schooling to the states, local school boards, and the parents. After watching how those in congress run this country why in the world we want them to educate our children.

HEALTH CARE: Complex problem, but I would start with opening up the health care program that is now enjoyed by members of congress and other federal employees. This would make health care much more affordable to many people. Then look at how we can help the private sector cover those without insurance.

NATIONAL SECURITY: We need to rethink our aggressive attitudes towards the world. Deploy troops only in case of direct attack, withdraw from outdated alliances. Regain the respect of the world.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS AT LARGE

About the Office:

SALARY: \$149,552. annual base

TERM: 10 years – no term limit

HOW ELECTED: The Governor appoints judges to the Court of Special Appeals. The State Senate must confirm these appointments. At the end of a ten-year term, these judges' names must appear on the ballot. Voters vote "yes" for retention, or "no" to remove from office. Judges may not be opposed by other candidates in retention elections. Maryland is divided into 7 Appellate Judicial Circuits. One judge is appointed from each of these circuits and six members are appointed from the state at large. There are a total of 13 judges in the Court of Special Appeals.

DUTIES: Judges preside over The Maryland Court of Special Appeals, which is the intermediate appellate court for Maryland. It was created in 1966 in response to the rapidly growing caseload in the Maryland Court of Appeals. The Court of Special Appeals originally could hear only criminal cases. However, its jurisdiction has expanded so it now considers any reviewable action of the circuit court, unless otherwise provided by law. Judges sitting on the Court of Special Appeals generally hear and decide cases in panels of three.

Questions asked the Court of Appeals candidates:

BACKGROUND: What are your qualifications for this office?

JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: What is area of greatest need in the Maryland judicial system?

LEGAL ACCESS: What can be done to provide individuals with wider and better access to legal help and the legal system?

Vote "yes" for continuance in office or "no" for removal.

Deborah Eyler

BACKGROUND: In 11 years of service as a judge on the Court of Special Appeals, I have authored more than 1,000 case opinions. From that experience, I have gained in-depth knowledge of all aspects of Maryland law and have become skilled at producing case opinions that are thorough, fair, and timely.

JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: In the criminal justice system, additional "drug court" diversion programs because the vast majority of crimes in Maryland are rooted in the distribution and use of illegal drugs. In the civil justice system, affordable legal representation, especially for parents and children in contested custody cases.

LEGAL ACCESS: More outreach by courts and the judiciary's local pro-bono committees, which exist in each county, to link up, early in a case, a party who cannot afford representation with a pro bono lawyer who can handle the matter for free or at a substantially reduced rate.

Robert A. Zarnoch

BACKGROUND: Before my appointment, I served 30 sessions as the Attorney General's Counsel to the General Assembly. I reviewed 20,000 bills and authored thousands of advice letters. I argued in the Supreme Court and participated in 39 cases in the State's highest court, including one making the Camden Yards stadiums possible.

JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: A 2008 Harris Poll discloses that only 16% of the public has a great deal of confidence in the courts and the justice system. Such numbers will never be reversed until judges demonstrate by performance that the system is accessible, deals fairly with all, and reaches just results.

LEGAL ACCESS: Studies note that a citizen is more likely to go to court than be hospitalized. Greater support for legal aid and pro bono lawyering is needed. Promotion of pre-paid legal plans and self-help, expanding small claims courts and streamlining legal procedures would also help citizens obtain affordable legal assistance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – FREDERICK COUNTY

About the Office:

SALARY: \$10,000 per year; reimbursements for expenses up to \$1,000; and health benefits

TERM: 4 year terms; voters elect three or four board members every two years

HOW ELECTED: at-large in a nonpartisan election

DUTIES: The Board monitors the implementation of the school system's master plan, reviews the work of the superintendent of schools, and gives final approval to curriculum matters and material, grant applications, staff additions and replacements, equipment purchases, land acquisitions, and school construction, repairs, and alterations. Sets education policy not otherwise controlled by federal and state laws; reviews and approves education budgets that are submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for funding and oversees local education expenditures from county, state and federal sources.

Questions asked the Board of Education candidates:

QUALIFICATIONS: What qualifies you to be a member of the Board of Education? (50 words)

PRIORITIES: Given current fiscal restraints, what are your top three priorities? (50 words)

STUDENT SKILLS: What skills will students need in the 21st century and how would you recommend that the Frederick County Schools address these needs? (75 words)

Vote for no more than three.

Ron Bird

Qualifications: I have thirteen years of teaching experience in Frederick County Public Schools. As a former member of the Frederick County Teachers Association I know what the teachers are talking about when they are referring to working conditions. I have earned a Masters Degree at Hood College in Administration and Management.

Priorities: (1) Reduction of unnecessary spending in our schools and throughout the school system. (2) A more efficient use of the school calendar to reduce costs in transportation and building expenses. (3) Manage our system with an understanding of the needs of the students, teachers and support personnel.

Student Skills: My experience at the Frederick County Career and Technology Center and in the Skills USA leadership organization has shown me that a student with academic skills along with practical application skills is better prepared for life skills than a student with only classroom learning. We must establish curriculums that teach our students that what they are learning can be applied and used to stimulate higher learning for the future.

Joe Chmelik

Qualifications: Officer U.S. Marine Corps 20 years (two years in Viet Nam); Business Manager Smithsonian Institution 18 years (425 employees, \$100 million annual sales); BS U.S. Naval Academy, MBA University of Chicago, MPA American University. Married 50 years; 7 children; 35 grandchildren. I believe in education and family values.

Priorities: 1) Inform taxpayers of detailed expenditures by publishing periodic statements, by school, and televising planning meetings. 2) Get rid of TERC, and replace it with Singapore math. 3) Ensure FCPS is focused on the academic fundamentals: English, history, geography, math, science, art, and music.

Student Skills: Success in the 21st century will require exceptional skills in mathematics and science. FCPS must ensure that it recruits and hires the very best quality teachers in these subjects. Progress should be measured by seeking competition with students in other countries.

Donna J. Crook

Qualifications: As a Board Member for the last 6 years I have fought to provide quality education to all children. I have been a leader in opposing wasteful spending while demanding accountability and efficiency for your tax dollars. I want to continue being your voice of common sense on the board.

Priorities: 1) Supporting adequate funding, spend our education dollars on students and what directly benefits them, not on an administration building. 2) Supporting adequate school buildings, a permanent seat for every student, (not a trailer) and renovating aging school buildings. 3) Students should be safe in school, and bus service should be more equitable.

Student Skills: Students will still need the basics, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Commuters, automation and high tech areas are increasing. We need to support students with schools equipped to meet their needs in these fields. Focus more on math and science courses to support this. Students need to have a more global view of society, economics, politics and other geo-social issues. Taking these steps will help students learn and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Angie L. Fish

Qualifications: As a teach in the Maryland public school system, a parent of school-aged children attending Frederick County Public Schools, and an active member of the community, I will bring a multi-faceted, objective view to the Board of Education.

Priorities: Above all else, the top priority is providing the students of Frederick County with an excellent education in a safe environment conducive to learning. This means ensuring that our students have highly-qualified teachers and supporting staff, as well as the necessary resources to ensure success.

Student Skills: The inclusion of technology while reinforcing a strong educational foundation will help ensure students are able to succeed in the 21st century. This will require up to date training of staff and upgrading of IT infrastructure. The use of technology as an instructional aide will better prepare students to incorporate ever-changing technology in their daily lives. The limitation, however, is the availability of funds given the current fiscal situation.

Kathryn B. "Katie" Groth

Qualifications: I am currently a member of the Board of Education, appointed and then elected in 2004. I have more than 30 years of experience in education including 10 years as a speech language pathologist. I have been an education activist for almost 40 years in Frederick.

Priorities: 1) Seek equity of education opportunity for every child in curriculum, instruction and facilities. 2) Recruit, hire, retain excellent teachers for every classroom and every student, including gifted as well as struggling learners. 3) Maintain high graduation standards that promote what society demands for the 21st Century.

Student Skills: The national Partnership for 21st Century Skills recommends that American students learn basic skills, but beyond that, they need to know how to communicate will, work collaboratively, understand and use the latest technology, possess personal financial literacy skills, and have a global awareness. My goal is to ensure that FCPS students achieve these goals. This will require financial resources of course, but more importantly, our citizen taxpayers must commit to the effort.

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Question 1 - Constitutional Amendment

(Chapter 513, Acts of 2007)

Early Voting; Polling Places; Absentee Ballots

Authorizes the General Assembly to enact legislation to allow qualified voters to vote at polling places inside or outside of their election districts or wards and to vote up to two weeks before an election. This amendment also authorizes the General Assembly to enact legislation to allow absentee voting by qualified voters who choose to vote by absentee ballot, in addition to voters who are absent at the time of the election or who are unable to vote personally.

(Amends Article I, §§1 and 3 of the Maryland Constitution)

- For the Constitutional Amendment
- Against the Constitutional Amendment

Origin of this Ballot Question – Legislation that would allow early voting and “no-excuse” absentee voting was passed by the General Assembly in 2006, but a court decision found the legislation to be in conflict with the Maryland Constitution. Therefore, in the 2007 session, the General Assembly passed SB 1 - Elective Franchise - Early Voting and Polling Places which amends the Maryland Constitution to allow the General Assembly to pass legislation that will establish early voting sites and allow voters to vote by absentee ballot without having to give a reason. All Constitutional Amendments must be passed by a majority of voters statewide.

Present Practice – Article I, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution states that a voter “shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which he resides.” As currently interpreted, this means that a voter cannot vote at an early voting location outside the voter’s election district and that a provisional ballot cast by a voter outside his or her election district cannot be counted. Article XV, Section 7 of the Maryland Constitution designates the “Tuesday after the first Monday of November” as the date of the general election. This has been interpreted by the Court of Appeals to mean that early voting is not permissible. Absentee ballots are only for use by voters who are absent at the time of an election or who are unable to vote in person at the assigned voting precinct. The absentee ballot application requires a voter to affirm this fact.

Proposed Change – If the amendment passes, the General Assembly may enact laws to establish early voting sites. Early voting would allow registered voters to vote, in person, up to two weeks before a state-wide primary or general election at polling places outside of their normal district or precinct. Early voting sites can accommodate voters from multiple precincts or even from the entire state. However, passing this amendment only allows the General Assembly to establish an early voting process. The details of how many early voting sites will be established and how the locations for them will be determined will come in future legislation. Passage of this amendment will also allow the General Assembly to pass legislation that enables any qualified voter to vote by absentee ballot if they choose to do so. The enabling legislation could remove the requirement to sign a statement telling why the voter wants to vote by absentee ballot.

Pros: Allows for in-person voting by voters who, due to work hours, long commutes or other reasons, are unable to vote during the limited hours on Election Day. Early voting should ease long lines and lengthy wait times at precincts on Election Day and should ease the workload of precinct workers. This measure also increases the likelihood that a voter’s provisional ballot will be counted by allowing a provisional ballot cast outside the voter’s election district to be counted for eligible races.

Cons: There will be increased costs associated with providing polling locations prior to Election Day. Voters who vote during early voting may not have access to late campaign information on which to base their election decisions. By encouraging more voters to use absentee ballots or early voting sites, some of the community interaction that takes place at precinct based polling places may diminish.

Question 2 - Constitutional Amendment

(Chapter 5, Acts of 2007 Special Session)

Authorizing Video Lottery Terminals (Slot Machines) to Fund Education

Authorizes the State to issue up to five video lottery licenses for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education of children in public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12, public school construction and improvements, and construction of capital projects at community colleges and higher education institutions. No more than a total number of 15,000 video lottery terminals may be authorized in the State, and only one license may be issued for each specified location in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Worcester, and Allegany Counties, and Baltimore City. Any additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming in Maryland is prohibited, unless approved by a voter referendum.

(Enacts new Article XIX of the Maryland Constitution)

- For the Constitutional Amendment
- Against the Constitutional Amendment

Origin of this Ballot Question – For several years, efforts to enact legislation that would authorize Video Lottery Terminals (slot machines) as a way to raise revenue for state expenditures failed in the legislature. The governor proposed, and legislators agreed, that the decision of whether to significantly expand gambling in Maryland should be decided by the voters. The Maryland Constitution allows only two ways for citizens to vote on laws. The first is to gather enough signatures on a petition to place a law that has been passed by the General Assembly on the ballot for voter approval. The second is to place a constitutional amendment, approved by three-fifths of the legislators, before the voters in a General Election. In the 2007 Special Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 4, which would add a new article to the Maryland Constitution to authorize video lottery terminal gaming (slot machines) in Maryland. A majority of voters, *statewide*, must vote in favor of the amendment for it to go into effect.

Present Practice – Currently, the annotated code of Maryland prohibits video lottery terminal (slot machine) gambling except certain fraternal, religious or war veterans’ organizations in a few counties may operate no more than five individual slot machines, and the revenue from them must be used for the charitable purposes of those organizations. Public education is currently funded through Maryland’s General Fund. State funding for primary and secondary education is about \$5.35 billion for this fiscal year. The three main sources of revenue for the General Fund are income tax, retail sales tax and the State Lottery. School construction may be funded by the General Fund but is primarily funded by borrowing through the issuance of State bonds.

Proposed Change – If the amendment passes, Maryland may operate up to 15,000 video lottery terminals in five locations: Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Allegany, Cecil and Worcester Counties. No more than one gambling facility would be allowed in each of the authorized jurisdictions. Another bill related to gambling, SB 3, was also passed during the 2007 Special Session. It will go into effect contingent on the passage of this constitutional amendment. As defined by SB 3, 33% of proceeds from video terminal gambling would go to the licensed operators, 9.5% to the horse racing industry; and approximately 48.5% to education. The remainder would be used for lottery expenses, local impact grants and administrative costs. Included in the latter is money to fight gambling addiction. The amendment also states that no additional video lottery terminals shall be authorized without another approval by voters.

Pros: In 2007, the Department of Legislative Services estimated 2010 state revenues will increase by approximately \$86 million from video gaming receipts and by as much as \$565 million by 2013. This additional revenue could reduce tax increases that would otherwise be necessary to fund projected education expenses. Maryland residents who gamble in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware may choose to spend their gambling dollars here instead of taking them out of state. New jobs will be created in construction and the gambling industry. Jobs in the horse racing industry may be saved. Unlike taxation, gambling is a recreational choice and not a mandate.

Cons: In order to generate enough revenue to reach the projected increases to state funding, gamblers in Maryland would have to lose over \$1 billion per year. To generate this level of revenue, the state will have to urge its citizens to frequent slots parlors. Gambling, like other addictions, frequently leads to social (and government) costs associated with lost productivity, increased crime, broken families and even suicide. Disposable income that currently generates sales tax revenue could be spent on gambling resulting in a loss to the General Fund. The referendum would put a specific revenue source, gambling, in the state Constitution. A constitution should be clear, concise and confined to fundamentals of the structure of government.

VOTING INFORMATION
To Accompany the On-Line
2008 GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS' GUIDES

General Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Polls open - 7 am to 8 pm

Voter Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 14, 2008

[Find Your Local Board of Elections](#) – From the Maryland State Board of Elections Website.

[Legislative and Congressional District Maps](#) – From the Maryland Department of Planning Website.

[Absentee Ballot](#) Application Deadline: Tuesday, October 28, 2008

[Emergency Absentee Ballot](#) Procedure:

[Provisional Ballot](#) Procedure:

[The Electoral College](#): An explanation.

THE VOTERS' GUIDE and THE LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in public policy debate and governmental decision-making. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in their decision-making process as they prepare for the general election. **The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.**

The candidates' answers in the Guide appear as submitted. If answers exceeded the word limit, an ellipsis indicates words were cut from the end of the statement. No write-in candidates will appear on the ballot but the list of filed write-ins will be available at each polling place.

In most areas of Maryland, the Local Leagues have been able to have Voters' Guides printed for distribution. For those voters who need On-Line access, this version has been prepared.

The League thanks all candidates who submitted answers to its questionnaires.

VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS and POLLING LOCATION

[Check with your Local Board of Elections](#) to verify your registration status and polling location. The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 14.

COME PREPARED TO VOTE

1. Read your **sample ballot** from Board of Elections mailed the last week of October.
2. Note your polling place location on the front; polling locations change!
3. Use this *Voters' Guide* to become informed on candidates and issues.
4. Mark your candidate selections and ballot question decisions **ahead of time**.
5. Bring your completed sample ballot with you on November 4 to vote confidently and reduce waiting times. Shorter lines are expected from 10 am to 2 pm.

DON'T PANIC IF THERE'S A PROBLEM

1. Check the signs for directions and/or ask the poll workers for assistance.
2. Depending on your jurisdiction, language assistance may be available.
3. If your name is not on the precinct register, you may be directed to another polling place or given the option of a **Provisional Ballot**. Provisional ballots are verified following the election for voter registration accuracy. Votes of verified registrants are included in the final election tally.

POLLING PLACE RESTRICTIONS

No cell phone, pagers, cameras or computers may be used by voters in the polling place.

Up to two children, 13 or under, may accompany a voter into the voting booth.

LONG WORK HOURS? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

On Election Day, polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. State Law requires Maryland-based employers to release you with pay for up to two hours **only if** you do not have two continuous hours off during the time the polls are open.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

1. Apply in writing for an absentee ballot if you “will be absent or unable to vote in person in the election.” Applications are available from your local Board of Elections upon request in writing, by telephone, or in person.
2. Return completed application form by 4:30 pm October 28 to the Board of Elections by mail or in person.
3. Absentee ballots are usually mailed approximately three weeks before an election.
4. Return completed absentee ballots by mail, postmarked no later than Election Day, Nov. 4 or in person at the Board of Elections by 8 pm on Election Day.

EMERGENCY ABSENTEE BALLOT

If the need arises from October 29 through Election Day, request an Emergency Absentee Ballot. Apply in person at the Board of Elections:

1. Complete Late Application for Absentee Ballot,
2. Receive an absentee ballot and
3. Vote on the spot or return to the Board yourself by 8 pm on Election Day.

If unable to complete this process in person (e.g. hospitalization)

1. You or someone acting for you must obtain a Late Application for Absentee Ballot.
2. Complete the Designation of Agent section on the Late Application.
3. Your agent then obtains an absentee ballot from the Board of Elections on your behalf, brings it to you to vote, and returns it prior to 8 pm on Election Day.

The Electoral College

The selection of the President and Vice President of the United States is more complicated than simply counting up the number of votes that each candidate receives on Election Day. When the United States Constitution was written, the country’s founders created an institution call the “Electoral College”. Part of the goal of establishing such an institution was to give power to the less populous states and to insure that candidates for President and Vice President had sufficient distribution of support from all areas of the nation to govern.

Each state is allocated one elector for every representative that they have in Congress. In Maryland, we have two Senators and eight members of the House of Representatives so we have 10 electors in the Electoral College. The smallest states have two senators and one member in the House so they have only 3 electors. Even though the District of Columbia has no members in Congress they were given the right to have electors following the ratification of the 23rd Amendment in 1961. California, the most populous state, has 55 electors. No member of Congress may be an elector.

In the beginning, the Electoral College had considerable power in making an independent choice among the candidates for President and Vice President. At one time, their names appeared on the ballot during a Presidential election. Now, only the names of the candidates appear. However, voters are actually casting ballots for electors who are pledged to the ticket they just voted for. The candidate with the highest number of votes in each state will be represented by electors who will all cast their vote for the winning candidate. The exceptions to this “winner take all” practice are the states of Maine and Nebraska. In those states, the winner of the statewide vote gets 2 electoral votes (equal to the number of senators from the state) and the candidate with the highest popular vote in each Congressional District receives the one electoral vote that is allocated for that district.

On the Monday after the second Wednesday in December, all of the electors chosen as a result of the General Election in November meet in their respective state capitals to cast two ballots – one for President and one for Vice President. The Electoral College includes 538 electors (one for every member in Congress plus 3 from the District of Columbia). In order to be elected, the candidates must receive 270 electoral votes. If no candidate for President receives that many votes, the House of Representatives picks the winner from the top three vote getters. Each state receives only one vote, regardless of its size. The Senate chooses the Vice President if no candidate receives 270 votes. Senators cast their votes as individuals, not as states.