



League of Women Voters 2008 General Election Voters' Guide For Queen Anne's 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 1

Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.

Party: Democratic

Website: www.kratovil.com

BACKGROUND: As a State's Attorney for Queen Anne's County, I fight every day to protect our families. As President of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association, I've worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to fight for better public safety laws in Annapolis. I'll take that same approach in Washington.

IMMIGRATION: I favor stricter enforcement of our immigration laws, and I firmly oppose granting benefits to anyone who is not in this country legally. We need to secure our borders, fix the legal immigration process, and give employers a more efficient way to verify their employees' immigration status.

CLIMATE CHANGE: I support the use of market-based mechanisms like permit auctions or cap-and-trade programs to reduce the greenhouse emissions from power plants and other polluters. Climate change is a critical issue, particularly for the low-lying coastal areas on the Eastern Shore.

ECONOMY: Reducing the deficit must be a top economic priority. Our out-of-control spending has weakened the dollar. Congress needs to cure its addiction to deficit spending by enacting strict pay-as-you-go rules, balancing the budget, and reforming the broken earmark process. Fighting against wasteful spending will be one of my top priorities.

EDUCATION: No Child Left Behind has failed because of lack of funding and an overemphasis on standardized tests. Real accountability requires us to look at more than just a single test score. We need to reform NCLB and define a more comprehensive standard to measure student achievement.

HEALTH CARE: There's no silver bullet to our current health care crisis. To achieve a goal of universal coverage, we'll need a comprehensive approach that includes an expansion of programs for children's coverage, incentives for small businesses who offer coverage to employees, and cost-reduction programs to slow medical inflation.

NATIONAL SECURITY: Our over-reliance on Middle East oil is a critical national security issue. The answer is a combination of more domestic oil production, increased efficiency standards for cars and buildings, and significant investments in renewable and alternative energies like wind, solar, and biofuels. Only a balanced plan will achieve our goals.

Andy Harris

Party: Republican

Website: www.andyharris.com

BACKGROUND: As a physician at Johns Hopkins, I understand how to address rising healthcare costs. As a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, I understand the threat our nation faces. As a State Senator, I have the experience to be ready to serve in the US Congress on day one.

IMMIGRATION: I oppose all forms of amnesty for illegal immigrants. The United States must give businesses the tools they need to know if the people they are hiring are legal residents. The United States needs to match the number of temporary work visas with need for these workers in our economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The United States needs to take common sense solutions to address climate change without hurting the economy. With rising energy prices, the United States must develop a comprehensive energy policy that includes greater production of oil and natural gas, conservation, and developing the next generation of alternative energy technology.

ECONOMY: The United States must lower taxes and decrease wasteful government spending to stimulate economic growth. Rising energy costs are hurting the economy. The United States must develop a comprehensive energy policy including greater production of oil and natural gas, conservation, and developing the next generation of alternative energy technology.

EDUCATION: As a father of five and a teacher at Johns Hopkins, I understand the value of education. The best decisions on education, with the input of teachers and parents, are made at the local level, not by a bureaucrat in Washington. We need to prepare our children to compete in...

HEALTH CARE: As a physician for over 25 years at Johns Hopkins, I look forward to addressing rising healthcare costs. We need to make healthcare more accessible and affordable to all Americans. Tort reform will bring the cost of healthcare down, and attract more physicians to our rural areas.

NATIONAL SECURITY: As a Commander in the US Naval Reserve and a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, I understand the grave threat our nation faces from terrorism. I will continue to support a strong and effective military that adjusts to the threats of the 21st century. I have always fought to expand...

Richard James Davis

Party: Libertarian

BACKGROUND: I run my own business (dental practice), I have read extensively in American history and some in economics, and I have read (and believe I understand) the United States Constitution.

IMMIGRATION: I support a thorough review of immigration requirements and might consider then consider increased legal immigration. I support stricter enforcement of laws regarding illegal immigration. I would require thorough evaluation of prospective immigrants and would have a strict and simple deportation policy for any lawbreakers prior to citizenship status.

CLIMATE CHANGE: I do not support federal legislation regarding climate change beyond a possible tax on excess energy consumption (which would need to be defined). I feel information is insufficient as to exactly what changes are taking place and why and where those changes will actually lead cannot yet be accurately predicted.

ECONOMY: The major challenge is governmental and individual debt. Government spending must be drastically reduced and all taxation on savings and investment should be eliminated. With reduced government spending, any taxation should be on EXCESS consumption (including energy), with generous allowance for individual needs for food, clothing, shelter and energy.

EDUCATION: I believe education should be controlled at local levels, mainly town and county, with minimal involvement at state level and essentially none at federal level beyond the service academies. If other pressing national needs are identified, student loan subsidy/deferment/repayment programs could serve as incentives.

HEALTH CARE: There should be tax exemptions for health care expenses and for health insurance, especially true insurance for catastrophic health events. Actual government involvement should be limited to public health measures that can be clearly shown to prevent (or at least limit) the spread of communicable disease.

NATIONAL SECURITY: Legal immigrants should be more thoroughly screened and illegal immigration should be more thoroughly addressed. There should be more effective enforcement of rules for visitors violating any visa regulations (including overstaying time allowed), with more rapid and efficient apprehension and deportation of violators.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS CIRCUIT 1

About the Office:

SALARY: \$162,352 annual base

TERM: 10 years

DUTIES: The Court of Appeals is the highest court in Maryland (commonly called the Supreme Court in other states and at the federal level). It hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a process which gives the court discretion to decide which cases to hear. However, the Court of Appeals is mandated by law to hear cases involving the death penalty, legislative redistricting, removal of certain officers, and certifications of questions of law.

All seven judges hear oral arguments on each case unless a judge removes him/herself from a case; then a judge from another court, or a retired appellate judge, may be specially assigned to sit in the place of the recused judge.

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 "for retention in office: Yes___ No___"

Sally D. Adkins – Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester

BACKGROUND: Judge for 10 years on intermediate appellate court, writing 1045 appellate opinions; 2 years on trial court; Chair; judicial disciplinary commission (8 years); 20 years general law practice; community service, e.g. Ethics Commission (Wicomico), Coastal Hospice, YMCA, Horizons Student Enrichment Program; initiated Child Custody Mediation Program for Wicomico Courts.

JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEEDS: Impartial, patient, thoughtful, practical, and decisive judges with deep respect for the rule of law. Judges with these qualities will assure an independent and fair judiciary that is essential for democracy.

LEGAL ACCESS: Continue and expand *Access To Justice* initiatives such as People’s Law Library, and design and expand programs to make it easier for self-represented individuals to pursue their legal objective.

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 – QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY

About the Office:

The Board of Education consists of five voting, nonpartisan, elected members and one nonvoting student representative from each public high school in the county.

SALARY: The president of the board is entitled to receive \$4,000 annually and the other voting members are entitled to receive \$3,500 annually as compensation. The president of the board and other members each are entitled to reimbursement not to exceed \$1,000 a year for travel and other expenses. The Queen Anne’s County Commissioners may increase the annual salary of the board members.

TERM: Each voting member serves for a term of four years beginning on the first Monday in December after the member’s election and until a successor is elected and qualifies. The initial term of the elected voting members are staggered as follows: The three members elected to the board at the general election in November 2008 who receive the highest number of votes cast from among the successful candidates at that election shall serve for a term of six years; and the two members who receive the least number of votes shall serve for a term of four years.

HOW ELECTED: Voters elect one board member from each of the four county commissioner districts and one at large member.

DUTIES: Carry out the policies of the State Board of Education; maintain a reasonably uniform system of public schools that is designed to provide quality education and equal educational opportunity for all children; subject to applicable laws and regulations of the state board, and with the advice of the county superintendent, determine the educational policies of the county school system; adopt, codify, and make available to the public bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct and management of the county public schools; appoint the county superintendent of schools, subject to approval by the state superintendent of schools; prepare a budget to submit to the county commissioners.

Questions asked the Board of Education candidates:

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: Do you have children who currently attend, or previously attended, Queen Anne’s County schools? What is your experience with the Queen Anne’s school system (parent, student, teacher, administrator, school board member) and how will this experience influence your participation on the County School Board?

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: What does the “High School Assessment” (HSA) requirement mean for students and parents?

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: What issues does “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) pose for school systems and boards of education?

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: Boards of education in Maryland are fiscally dependent, relying upon state and local governments for their funding. Given the many needs of school systems, what would your priorities be for the allocation of these funds?

SCHOOL BOARD’S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: What are the primary responsibilities of boards of education as defined by law in the state of Maryland and how are they different from those of the superintendent?

SCHOOL SYSTEM’S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: What do you believe is the most pressing issue for the school system?

(Vote for one at large and one from each district)

At Large:

Mark Cascia

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: My daughter, who has an IEP, attends 2nd grade at BES. I am serving in my 3rd year on the QAC School Board, two as President. Having a child with an IEP provides a unique perspective on how to best serve the largest minority in our school system (~14%).

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: Passing the HSA in English, Government, Algebra/Data Analysis, and Biology is a graduation requirement beginning with the graduating class of 2009. Students will be held to high expectations and parents and teachers alike need to encourage them to take these assessments seriously.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: The goal of NCLB is that all students graduate with basic language and math skills so they can be productive citizens. Each school must hit a number of targets each year for all students plus a number of subgroups to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress or sanctions result.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: The school system budget is quite complex. We need to balance the needs of our children with funding of staff contracts, teaching aids, books, and school maintenance to provide a safe learning environment to achieve the highest level of education possible.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: BOE responsibilities include selecting the Superintendent, preparation/adoption of a budget, adopt policies for operating and managing the schools, seek in every way to promote the interest of the schools, etc. The Superintendent, as CEO, implements those policies and operates the school system in accordance with MD law.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: Meeting goals, mandates, and standards required by NCLB, HSA, MSA, with rising costs and shrinking budgets. This requires innovation in the attraction and retention of highly qualified teachers in content specific areas to meet AYP each year, particularly in out years. This is mandatory for quality education for all students.

Faye C. Lister

E-mail: fayelister@aol.com

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: My 2 children attended QACPS from K thru 12, graduated from QACHS.. One granddaughter went PK thru 12, 2 grandsons still in the system. My experiences have been very positive. It will help tremendously as I know the area and its positives and its negatives.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: HSA requires diploma-bound students, graduating in 2009 and after, must pass assessment exams in Biology, Algebra, English, and Government. This puts pressure on students and teachers, especially biology and algebra, to prepare for exams. Parent role in this is to support and help their child meet this challenge.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: "No Child Left Behind" requires a large budget and very strict requirements to designate highly qualified teachers, two very essential issues.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: The priorities of school systems are flux and depend on many circumstances. However, my priorities will always be in the light of the student, the teachers, and the community.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: The powers and mandatory duties of the Board of Education are defined in the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Title 13A of the Code of Maryland Regulations. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to, formulating and interpreting policy and selecting and appointing the Superintendent.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: Right now, the most pressing issue for QACPS is to find a Superintendent that is qualified for the position and is a strong leader. The retirement of Dr. Bernard Sadusky is a great loss for QACPS.

District 1:

H. Joseph "Joe" Gannon, Jr

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: I am a Queen Anne's County High school graduate as well as both of my sons. My youngest son graduated in 2007. I am currently a board member and would like to continue to remain on the board.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: The high school assessment requirement means that students need to achieve a required level in order to graduate.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: "No child left behind" is another federal mandate that had no federal dollars to implement.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: The number one priority for allocation of funds is for the students.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: The superintendent is the only employee of the board of education.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: The most pressing issues for the school system is insuring that all students have a safe environment and the best education possible.

Cindy Todd

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: I have two children attending Queen Anne's County Schools. My experience includes: School Improvement Team, Cultural Arts Coordinator, Weekly Volunteer, Playground Chairman. These experiences have opened my eyes to the myriad issues, both education and fiscal, that face our students, educators and administrators daily.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: High school students must meet standard HSA exams to graduate. Educational foundations for these exams begin in elementary and middle school. Students and parents must be aware of these requirements early in the student's educational career to ensure that they receive the education needed to receive a high school diploma.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: NCLB mandates, that all students must attain proficiency in reading and math by 2013-2014 and that all students will graduate from high school. Since NCLB was an un-funded mandate, it puts the onus on local boards to ensure adequate funding to reach these goals. The biggest issue then is financial.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: The first priority would be to ensure that the NCLB goals are met. This would include investing in the latest school room technologies and practices to enhance teaching practices. Other priorities would include establishing a capital replacement program for school buildings and support of the after school programs.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: Board Responsibilities: Maintain uniform system of public schools to provide quality education and equal educational opportunity for all children; Determine educational policies; Adopt and codify bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct and management of the county public schools. The Superintendent is responsible for enacting these measures.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: Maintaining a high achievement for all children regardless of their wealth, color or circumstances and developing a teacher retention program to ensure that our qualified teachers do not leave for (perceived) greener pastures.

District 2:

Vito Tinelli III

Website: www.vitotinelli.com

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: I have two wonderful daughters that attend the elementary schools and they are the main reason why I am running. I truly believe we have a great school system and want to make sure the representatives of an elected board will keep the children of our community a priority.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: The HSA's insure that the students have the basic education and skills necessary to be successful in life and are a measurement of the success of a school. Parents have a responsibility to their children and community to stay involved and make education a focal point in children's lives.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: While NCLB is a great concept, this still needs to be revisited on the Federal level due to insufficient resources available to the local jurisdictions needed to meet the long-term expectations. Also, I believe it does not adequately address the proficiency and needs of our special education students.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: Since more than three quarters of the operating budget is allocated to salaries and fringes, this has the most weight and consequences for any increases or decreases to the budget. Queen Anne's County Schools need to remain competitive with our pay and benefits in relation to neighboring jurisdictions.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: According to the Maryland's Annotated Code, County Boards of Education are elected or appointed officials responsible for the educational matters and to promote the interests of its jurisdiction's schools. The Superintendent is responsible for the daily and operational activities and governance of the schools under the Board of Education

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: The most pressing issue is funding and allocation of those funds. We are financially bound by the resources we receive and as an owner of a local accounting firm, I have extensive experience helping businesses, non profits, and government entities realize their short and long term financial goals.

District 3:

Cheryl H. Jaffe

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: My husband and I have twin daughters who will be attending Bayside Elementary in the fall. We have experienced examples of poor communication and exceptionally effective communication here in QAC. Among my top priorities for the school board is to ensure effective communication between schools, parents, and the BOE.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: Implemented with care, the High School Assessment can ensure that all students graduate with a standard skillset. The test must be fair and reliable, as are the SAT and ACT, and related to relevant skills. Curriculum must remain focused on critical thinking, and avoid "teaching to the test".

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: NCLB shortchanges high ability students who need little guidance to achieve proficiency, but need and deserve guidance for academic growth. As a member of the Board of Education I will improve access to challenging coursework for all children as well as identification and programming for high ability students.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: Teachers are the most influential factor on student achievement, yet the pay disparity between teaching and technical professions is steep. We must entice the best teachers to stay in QAC and in the classroom with financial and professional incentives. We must also strive to keep class sizes low.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: The Board of Education (BOE) must maintain a school system "designed to provide quality education and equal educational opportunity for all children". The BOE crafts the vision and mission of the school system; the Superintendent advises the Board and implements the vision according to applicable laws, policies, and regulations.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: I'm deeply concerned about mathematics education and plan to make Queen Anne's County a leader in this area. Like reading, success in math depends less on innate ability than on quality curriculum, teachers, and effort. In particular, success in Algebra depends on early and adequate preparation for Algebra.

Edward "Eddie" Miller

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: I currently have one first grader at Kent Island Elementary school and have been involved with the PTA for three years. I love our school system, teachers and staff, but feel there is room for improved communication between educators and parents.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: The High School Assessment requirement is an educational tool which demands accountability to high standards for graduation. These exams ensure our students have the skills necessary for the twenty first century in Math, English, Science and Social Studies.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: The No Child Left Behind Act holds local education systems accountable for achieving learning standards. I feel we must see beyond these expectations and not teach to the test. We must fund all skill levels of learning, from special education to gifted and talented, equally.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: My priorities for the allocation of school funding are hiring and retaining good teachers, building functional and cost-effective schools, and putting technology in the classrooms.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: The School Board is responsible for appointing a Superintendent, and getting approval from the State Superintendent for that appointment. The Board is responsible for creating educational policy and promoting the interests of Queen Anne's County schools. The Superintendent is the executor, responsible for carrying out the policies.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: The most pressing issue for the newly elected School Board will be adjusting to the elected format and being more open in its communications with the community. With less funding available and a growing population, we still need to keep class sizes small and retain highly qualified teachers.

District 4:

Allen T. Cork

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: I have employed a commonsense approach since coming to the Board in 2006 and now serve as its Vice President. My four children attended public schools here the last 14 years, two are at KIHS now. My daughters currently attend Johns Hopkins and Washington College. I pledge my continual support.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: The HSA continues to provide a minimum standard of achievement that our students in Maryland must attain to remain competitive in a global economy. Parents and students must view these tests as a baseline benchmark in reaching their goals in life.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: "No Child Left Behind" places a heavy burden on school systems nationwide to make AYP with limited resources and multiple challenges to overcome. It also places undue stress on systems with high ESOL enrollments and fosters an outcome-based educational system rather than a home-based driven curriculum.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: With dwindling state support, my priorities would remain: student achievement, teacher recruitment, and teacher retention. I would endeavor to maintain our current standards of education while exposing our teachers and students to future trends in instruction and technology. Safe schools, communication, and family and community involvement will also be priorities.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: Boards of Education are primarily concerned with setting policies that govern school districts and overseeing that process. BOEs are also responsible for securing funds for new school construction as well as the supervision of the Superintendent. Superintendents are charged with the implementation of the board's policies and day-to-day operations.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: The County is expected to receive \$1.9 million less revenue from the state, which will mean a reduction of \$1,188,100 for the QACPS. That's alarming! I hope to help manage our public school system through this fiscal crisis, while making AYP and keeping pace with "No Child Left Behind."

Lisa M. Darden

EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM: I have three children in QACPS and have been active in the PTA for five years. During that time, I have built strong relationships with the County Commissioners, board members, educators and parents. I experience our school system every day and see firsthand what is working and what is not.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT: The "High School Assessment" (HSA) requirement is very important for students and parents to understand because passing these tests is a graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2009. A student must pass or meet minimum score standards on the HSA in Algebra, Biology, English II, and Government.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: "No Child Left Behind" is a mandate that holds schools accountable for student success and calls for highly qualified teachers in the classrooms. This can pose a problem for school systems and boards of education because it has proven challenging to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers.

PRIORITIES FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: My priority for allocation of state and local funding would be to maximize every dollar we receive, while working to make our school system stronger and challenge every student to do their best. We also need to explore non-traditional funding sources and try to direct more money into the classroom.

SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES: The Board's primary responsibilities, according to Maryland state law, are to exercise control over educational matters and to promote the interest of the schools under its jurisdiction. The board acts on advice of the Superintendent. The Superintendent runs the schools; the board makes sure the school system is run well.

SCHOOL SYSTEM'S MOST PRESSING ISSUE: The most pressing issue for our school system is to provide an excellent education during a challenging budget cycle. New requirements are placed on our school system every day with little or no additional funding. Our challenge is to balance the budget and continue meeting the needs of our students.

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 receipt 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.