

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot™

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD21042

### ETHICS BALLOT QUESTIONNAIRE

#### Howard County Legislative Primary 2022

Congratulations on your decision to run for Howard County State Delegate. The People's Voice is a civic/political organization in Howard and Montgomery Counties. We have over 4,000 members in Howard County and sponsor the non-partisan Ethics Ballot. If you would like to seek endorsement please return this Questionnaire to [EthicsBallot@Gmail.com](mailto:EthicsBallot@Gmail.com) by midnight May 24, 2022. Please note that all questionnaires are published on the website, [www.EthicsBallot.com](http://www.EthicsBallot.com). We will be in touch regarding endorsement dates soon after getting the questionnaires back. We pride ourselves in working hard for our endorsed candidates, and look forward to hearing your positions on important County issues. THANK YOU so very much for your time!

#### **Be sure to address all aspects of each question.**

Name/District: [Chao Wu, 9A](#)

Campaign Address/Phone/Email

[chaowu2016@gmail.com](mailto:chaowu2016@gmail.com)

Educational History

1. [Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park](#)
2. [Master, National University of Singapore](#)
3. [Bachelor, University of Science and Technology of China](#)

Languages Spoken/Other Skills/Relevant Experience

- [English, Chinese, Programming](#)

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1. Why are you running for this office? Describe how your campaign is viable.

[I would like to serve Howard County and Montgomery County at the state level. While serving on Howard County Board of Education \(2018-2022\) and as a chair in 2021, I have first-hand experience on many challenges we are facing. I am a data scientist with a PhD from University of Maryland. I will work with all stakeholders to address major challenges: funding gap in education, overdevelopment in the community and environment protection for the state.](#)

[I ran a strong campaign in 2018 for the BOE seat and won with 54,254 votes, which ranked second among eight candidates in the general election. I have an enthusiastic support network in the community that is the backbone of my](#)

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campaign. And I am confident that I can win in the state delegate race with this amount of strong support in the community.

What qualifications do you uniquely bring to hold this office? What experience do you have with the General Assembly?

I am well prepared for the duties of the House of Delegates. I am a data scientist with a PhD in Electrical Engineering, a proud father of two, an immigrant, and a community volunteer. I have been serving on the Howard County Board of Education since 2018, and as the Chair in 2021. I served on the Audit Committee and County Spending Affordability Committee, and also on the board of MABE ( Maryland Association of Boards of Education).

2. Have you signed the No Dark Money, No Developer Money pledge? If NOT how do you eliminate the appearance of conflicts?

YES

3. If you are elected, what are your top priorities for 2022? Discuss at least three legislative areas in need of change, and how you would address them.

First, I have first-hand experience of what our educations are experiencing during the last four years and have worked hard to find solutions as a school board member and as a board chair. I want to address these issues at the state level, and support teachers, students and their families.

Second, I have witnessed not well-planned developments which squeeze limited resources from the county. I will present solutions from the state level to address the over-development issue. We should find a balanced growth with consideration of jobs, schools, roads, hospitals, fire stations, and other infrastructure needs. An enhanced Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances (APFO) is needed.

Third, transportation improvement and human health issues (beyond COVID, asthma, lead in the water, cancer with potential links to environmental hazards) are other major concerns for me. I will work to propose legislation for better transportation, a safe environment, and safe drinking water.

4. What do you believe are the strengths and weaknesses of the current Howard County Delegation? How have you demonstrated your ability to work with people who have diverse opinions and party affiliations?

**I have a proven record working with other board members on various issues, including school budget, SROs, curriculum, covid emergency handling etc.**

5. Do you believe that State or County funded housing trust funds should be utilized to provide affordable housing? If so, should they be restricted to government usage and not private projects? Why or why not?

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**I believe the state or county-funded housing trust funds could be utilized. However, I don't believe private projects should use this money. It is a conflict of interest unless the state/county takes the ownership and return of interest.**

6. Do you support shifting the burden of proof in Special Education litigation from parents/guardians to the County School System? If not, why? If so, should legislation have a sunset clause?

**As a school board member, I have supported it. We should have a sunset clause since we don't have a full picture of this change. With the sunset clause, we could understand it better. If it proves viable and great, we could remove the sunset clause.**

7. Do you believe any State laws need to change regarding reproductive health?

**I strongly support reproductive rights. I believe women should have the power and rights to make decisions for themselves. With the impending overturning Roe v. Wade, I believe the state laws will need to be changed accordingly to better protect women's reproductive health.**

8. What changes, if any, do you support regarding employment law?

**Maryland's current minimum wage is \$12.50 for large employers (15 or more employees) and \$12.20 for small employees (14 employees or fewer), except in Montgomery counties. I believe the current minimum wage should be raised, particularly with the highest inflation rate in 40 years.**

**I also believe we need to have a more data-analytic driven decision on the minimum wage discussion. What is the right amount and when we should raise it should be from a formula in an analytic approach, taking living cost, economic competitiveness, inflation, etc.**

**Maryland labor laws do not require employers to provide nursing mothers with breaks to express breast milk. I believe nursing mothers should be given reasonable rest breaks for this purpose.**

9. Do you believe there is a need to change the MD Forest Conservation requirements or any other environmental protection or storm water management requirements?

**There are environmental groups challenging new stormwater management requirements Maryland regulators have issued for Baltimore city and Baltimore County. They provided evidence that the requirements fall short of what's needed to curb worsening climate-driven flooding and reduce polluted runoff. I believe the evidence is convincing and the changes to the requirements are warranted.**

10. What legislation do you feel is necessary to address Climate change concerns?

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**Energy efficiency and energy usage reduction  
are two major approaches to address climate change.**

11. What changes or extensions to the MD agricultural preservation program do you believe are necessary?

**The purpose of the program is to preserve sufficient agricultural land to maintain a viable local base of food and fiber production for the present and future citizens of Maryland, which is more important than before while the supply-chain crisis continues and the inflation keeps going up. I don't have specifics on changes/extensions at this moment.**

By Authority: The People's Voice, Lisa Markovitz Treasurer