

The People's Voice™

Ethics Ballot™



By authority of The People's Voice, Lisa Markovitz, Treasurer

March 10, 2020

The People's Voice

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D

Ellicott City MD 21042

Re: 2020 Ethics Ballot Endorsements

DEADLINE for response Midnight, Wed. March 18, 2020

Dear Candidates for the Howard County Board of Education 2020 election:

The People's Voice is a civic and political organization that sponsors The Ethics Ballot in Howard and Montgomery Counties.

Below please find the Ethics Ballot Questionnaire for the 2020 Howard County Board of Education election. The People's Voice participated in the Common Questionnaire this year, and since you chose to participate and responded to that, you have been given a shorter Ethics Ballot Questionnaire. Please feel free to supplement any of your Common Questionnaire answers, if you so desire, along with your Ethics Ballot Questionnaire response submission. We will be publicizing a combined questionnaire of both the CommonQ and ours, on our website, with referred links on social media, and membership emails.

The People's Voice Board of Directors and many Members work hard for our endorsed candidates. Our motto is community interests over special interests, and we pride ourselves on the outreach we can do for you, versus funding. We have a postal mailing list of over 8000 countywide, and email lists of over 5000, with 3700 members at present in Howard County. We provide third-party usage of our lists, through our printer sources, to reach our membership for endorsed candidates. We provide Ethics Ballot emails, signage placement, and poll workers, and look forward to working with our endorsed candidates. Good luck to all in what we hope will be an informed, productive election season.

Our questionnaire is in PDF format. To avoid any conflicting software versions and varying editing software, please return your answers in PDF format as well. You may need to cut and paste from our PDF version into your own editing software. There is no use of forms to restrict your input, just please pay attention to the requested answer limit lengths, which include spaces in character counts.

Please return your questionnaire via email to EthicsBallot@gmail.com, along with any updates from the CommonQ you wish to make, and any questions or technical issues you may have. We look forward to your responses in seeking our endorsement. If you have not already had an interview with a Board Member, we will be contacting you soon, as we are planning on interviewing all the candidates prior to the primary. We will be making primary election endorsement decisions for the Board of Education, shortly after the submission deadline.



Individual Information (supplementing CommonQ)

Name/District Larry Pretlow II, District 2

List who has been compensated to provide services to your campaign. List your campaign managers. Note current cash on hand in your campaign account, and your donations received and spent. You only need to note figures that are not included yet on campaign finance filings.

No one has been compensated to provide services to my campaign. Yajan Khanal is helping me run my campaign, providing both strategic and logistical support. He is doing this on a part-time basis in his free time and not formally paid. DeRone Smith is the campaign treasurer who is also doing this on a part time basis and not formally paid. We have \$4787.16 current cash on hand and I will be donating another \$1000 this week. Since the last filing period we have raised \$4689.64 and spent \$1931.26.

List organizations/groups/committees (both education-related and not) of which you are an official member.

Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) Board of Directors
Stevens Forest Elementary PTA
American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)

Community Interest / Position Questions

1. In what areas of public education do you refuse to compromise, due to strong beliefs? How would you make changes in these areas? Give examples of how you collaborated and compromised with colleagues who disagreed with you. (Character limit please 1200)

One area of public education where I wouldn't compromise is in following HCPSS policy when making decisions including but not limited to redistricting. Following policy is very important to me as they were created to provide transparent standards to the public. During the past redistricting policy 6010 was violated when making decisions by placing the criterion of diversity above capacity utilization, distance, and feedsiz. I would make changes when it comes to issues that result in policy violations by insisting on a vote by the BOE to revise the policy after study and review if they believe it needs changes as it should be done under policy 2020 every 6 years anyways. I'd also work to ensure that the BOE advertises, to the entire community, major proposed changes well in advance. For example, BOE members should hold town halls to recruit participation from traditionally unheard communities, such as the Hispanic community.

I've collaborated with my colleagues on the Oakland Mills Village Board who I have disagreed with by looking at issues from their viewpoint, finding areas of agreement, creating a solution that people endorse and explaining to the public how it was negotiated.



2. Give examples, in your personal or professional life, that demonstrate your willingness to hold people accountable and include transparency for the community. (Character limit 1200)

I have been willing to hold people accountable by taking action to stand up for the economically disadvantaged. On the Oakland Mills Village Board, I filed a complaint to the MD Office of the Attorney General in response to a broken process in which they require the Village Board candidates to verify the leases of Apartment residents rather than the Village Board itself. By not having a fair, single-point, coordinated lease verification process the Village Board disenfranchises the voice of the apartment residents in Oakland Mills.

I have supported and fostered transparency for the community when I hosted an event in the Verona apartments in Oakland Mills so that residents would be aware of a redistricting plan. Many were not aware that the redistricting would move their children much further away from home and increase their commute time. I have pushed HCPSS to ensure that redistricting changes were advertised in multiple languages such as Spanish so that communities whose primary language was not English would be informed. Sadly, the board failed to do this during this past redistricting. As a member of the BOE, I would continue to engage the community through town halls.

3. For incumbents, what do you feel is your legacy you have left so far on the HCPSS? For other candidates, what would you want your legacy to be and why are you the best choice to create it? (Character limit 1200).

I want my legacy to be one in which I am known for gathering community input to propose solutions to major problems such as the achievement gap, deferred maintenance, and school overcrowding, maintaining quality instructional programs and reinvesting in special education. In the past, the BOE hasn't made an effort to reach out to the community when making decisions with large implications. I would bring that change and encourage creative solutions to maximize existing funds through audits and generate new revenue streams through transfer taxes and impact fees without overburdening taxpayers.

I am the best candidate to create this legacy as I have worked to create this in the past by working with BOE members to show the implications of moving high FARMS communities further away. I have hosted events to increase community engagement in Oakland Mills during the 2019 redistricting. As an Oakland Mills Village Board member, I chaired a community engagement committee to increase record low engagement and work with stakeholders to come up with creative solutions to meet community needs on a limited budget by finding revenue sources as well as using existing money more wisely.