

ETHICS BALLOT QUESTIONNAIRE

Howard County Board of Education Primary 2024

Congratulations on your decision to run for the Howard County Board of Education. The People's Voice is a civic/political organization in Howard and Montgomery Counties. We have over 4,800 members in Howard County and sponsor the non-partisan Ethics Ballot. If you would like to seek endorsement to The Ethics Ballot please return this Questionnaire to EthicsBallot@Gmail.com by midnight Tuesday March 26. Please note that all questionnaires are published on the website, 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. Feel free to add additional pages with question numbers noted to provide more information on each question as needed, or fill in more space herein. Be sure to return via email in Word or text format.

Name/District: Andrea Chamblee, D5 (Howard County, MD)

Campaign Address/Phone/Email/Social Media/Website (if not on MD Board of Elections site)

6030 Daybreak Circle, A150, 358, Clarksville, MD 21029

Facebook: [Andrea Chamblee for HCPSS BOE](#)

Twitter: [@Chamblee4BOE](#)

Campaign manager: Lizz Hammon

Educational & Employment History

Graduated from Glenelg High School in Howard County (1979); UMD College Park with a BS in Journalism (1983); and UMD School of Law (1986)

Member of Maryland and DC Bars

Completed Executive Development Program, Northwestern Univ. Kellogg School of Management (2008)

Adjunct Assistant Professor, George Washington University (2015 – Present)

Adjunct Faculty, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (2000–2015)

FDA, (Supervisory) Regulatory Counsel (2009 – 2021)

Regulatory Affairs Consultant (1999–2009)

FDA Regulatory Counsel (1987–1999)

Relevant Experience (including fiscal and budget management)

I have over 35 years of experience as a Food and Drug Attorney, and I am a trained FDA investigator. I am a compliance expert in the areas of policy, procedure, and performance audits. I have an extensive background in mediation, negotiation, and successfully building consensus. As an educator and a Fellow in my profession, I train people to perform these activities. As a department supervisor at the FDA, I had to carefully prepare budget proposals for resources, training, compensation, benefits and all

other operational expenses that were required to carry out the duties of our office with high quality performance. I am very accustomed to finding solutions in resource-limited environments.

As one of Maryland's foremost safety advocates, I am all too familiar with the challenges our students and school staff face every day in the areas of physical safety, violence prevention, mental/emotional health, and the health/safety risks that come with being inside aging, crowded buildings. My career and advocacy training have made me highly adept at identifying contributing factors to problems and addressing solutions that get to root causes. Band-aids are not good enough. In my work with national advocacy groups, I've gained access to mounds of data about school system issues, showing what has been tried in other areas, what has worked well, and what hasn't. My frame of reference is broad and I am grounded in the knowledge that making poor systemic decisions can almost always be avoided.

Causes financially supported, fund raising work promoted:

American Field Service (AFS-USA) Exchange Student Program (served as a host family, State Department appointed liaison, and made financial contributions to the program)

John McNamara Endowed Sports Journalism Scholarship (co-founder)

Large contributions to Marylanders for Marriage Equality, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action.

Fundraising with Everytown USA

Over the years I have contributed to Federal, State, and Local campaign committees that support candidates who share my values. I am happy to provide an exhaustive list on request.

I frequently donate small amounts to support friends who participate in birthday fundraisers. I am happy to gather an exhaustive list on request.

Why are you running for this office? What qualifications do you uniquely bring to hold this office? Describe why you feel you have a viable campaign.

I grew up in Howard County and I love our community. I'm passionate about public health, safety, and education. These three things are more interwoven now than ever. I fear for the students with asthma who struggle to breathe the low quality indoor air in many of our buildings, I hurt for the kids who are different and feel they don't belong, I am appalled by the insufficient care provided to our students with special needs, and I am deeply concerned by the re-energized book banning movement that seeks to devalue large segments of the human population. It has been so frustrating to watch the school system and the BOE struggle to carry out their most basic duties. And I'm disheartened by how little is done to reach the members of our community who can't share their voices using any of the channels that are currently available.

HCPSS needs someone who will do the hard work necessary to find the right solutions, who will go find those unheard voices so that all perspectives are understood, who knows how to effectively run large, complex systems, and someone who is committed to doing it all, out in the open, where the public can see.

What experience do you have with the HCPSS? Have you ever testified before the Board of Education? What positions did you take? (Those with vast experience, pick most important to you.)

I attended Howard County Public Schools, and my mother taught here. I belong to several PTAs in District 5 and I am a highly engaged member of the HCPSS Community Advisory Council that reports directly to the Board of Education. I'm also involved with high school debate teams in Howard County and I have judged previous debate competitions. I occasionally attend Board of Education meetings in-person and I always make a point of watching the work session and meeting playbacks online. I have testified at every level of government in the state of Maryland - always about issues related to safety.

Funding all the needs of the HCPSS community is harder than ever, given added mandated funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future program, and the past use of one-time Covid funds for recurring costs. How do you believe funding shortfalls should be addressed? What areas of the HCPSS budget do you believe are the best areas to cut in order to meet funding needs? Are there areas that you believe should be the last to ever have funding cut?

The county needs to look at making cuts to their programs and rosters so more money is freed up for schools. The county and HCPSS both need to comb through the granular details of their finances and find areas where money can be saved without harming the system. Cutting hundreds of teachers and increasing class sizes may be the most efficient way to reduce costs but it certainly isn't what's best for the HCPSS community. This year specifically was a real missed opportunity to comb through each department and identify all the smaller expenses that we could do without. (Why does HCPSS pay for Zoom Pro, Zoom Webinars, and Swagit Live-streaming when we've already invested into the Google Meets ecosystem?) Trimming fat one sliver at a time is harder and requires a concerted effort, but our school communities deserve leaders who will do exactly that. For years all we've seen from our leaders are white flags of surrender or giant hacksaws. We need to move away from this tendency to cut a handful of expensive things because that gets the number down faster. We have to do more strategic, long term planning and we have to cut costs more surgically.

Another approach involves the county and state creating new revenue opportunities. As a member of the BOE and as a Howard County resident, I will be putting regular pressure on state and local leaders to roll out some creative new ways to bring in more money for schools. We might also want to explore the P3 options for one time bandaids. I'm not convinced that P3 funding on a large scale is in our best interests but I look forward to learning more about what options are available.

I would prefer to only cut bloat and leave all the programs that benefit our students. We mustn't undermine the classroom environment. Fewer teachers and larger class sizes should never be the first solution we reach for.

What will **not** go into my decisions is whether the county executive or county council will look bad if the BOE requests all the money that the schools actually need.

Where do you think school construction should be prioritized? How would you address getting schools built faster where they are most needed? Include your thoughts about how to juggle maintenance needs as well.

We need a new high school in Elkridge and we have to stop putting off improvements in the Dunloggin and Oakland Mills communities. From there, we have to get these kids out of these portable classrooms. Portable units can't be the solution. The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) highlights communities where schools are at or above capacity. This is a great start to show where schools are needed, but we also need reliable projections for school-age populations. Kids don't stay their age, and neither do their parents. Families move in and out of neighborhoods and we need better forecasting methods to glean whether those certain communities are likely to retain the same number of school-aged children over time. We can't use a cookie-cutter approach to address our changing population. We have to work with the experts in housing on these projections, and work to provide an equitable framework for the needs of each neighborhood.

How do you think overcapacity school concerns should be addressed? Do you believe current enrollment projection methods need to be changed? If so, how? What, if anything, should be done, when enrollment ends up significantly higher than projected project estimates?

HCPSS needs more schools. Portables are subpar learning environments. Overcrowding affects every student and every teacher in every hour of every class. I am open to exploring any and all funding options, including P3s, that will get us the money needed to catch up on deferred maintenance and construct new adequately sized buildings. Again, we have to work with housing experts to improve the accuracy of enrollment projections.

Do you believe the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) should be strengthened, weakened or left the same regarding school capacity? Why? Note any desired changes. Note how you feel the Board of Education can or should be involved in APFO.

The APFO provides a growth management process that should enable the County to better provide adequate public roads, schools, and other facilities in a timely manner and achieve general plan growth objectives. This process is designed to direct growth to areas where adequate infrastructure exists or will exist. While the growth plans are monitored, they are only re-reviewed every 5 years.

APFO should be strengthened by more frequently re-aligning and re-evaluating all aspects that are already considered. Too much can change in 5 years and we must ensure that development doesn't proceed faster than infrastructure, and should be paused if the infrastructure needs time to catch up.

Describe positions you have taken, votes you have made, or testimony you have given that you feel is the most important regarding HCPSS issues. Describe how you championed causes, include at least one example of any of your positions or votes that you regret, or about which you feel differently.

My safety advocacy is the result of my husband's tragic murder. The positions I've taken and the topics I've gotten involved with are all things that have made people safer. I have spoken numerous times before both houses of the Maryland State Legislature on school and firearm safety, to close the background check loophole, to require ghost guns to be serialized so they can be traced, and to require parents to be notified when there are shooter drills at schools because many of our kids are

traumatized by these events. I do not regret any of my positions. Almost all Americans including responsible gun owners agree with these positions.

How do you feel altercations should be handled in schools? Include any staffing changes you believe should occur.

Physical altercations occur overwhelmingly in unsupervised areas. Harper's Choice Middle is a great example of what can happen when more adults are available to supervise students in the hallways and in the cafeteria. Last year, HCMS began assigning hallway duty to all staff members. Staff had assigned stations during class changes that ensured there were no blind spots where altercations could escalate or break out unnoticed. Once this measure was in effect, instances of physical altercations declined significantly. HCMS also made great use of a non-law enforcement security specialist who could monitor the cafeteria and walk the halls during class, which cut down on instances in those settings as well. Another helpful change was the decision to stagger the class change schedule. Instead of dumping the entire school out into the hallways at once, they began letting each grade get into their next class before the next grade entered the halls.

We also need more counselors in our schools. Physical altercations are often the manifestation of other unmet needs.

What HCPSS policies do you believe should be changed regarding protections of marginalized groups? Include in your answer your views on how to address achievement gaps.

With a few exceptions, HCPSS policies themselves include all the right language that a system would need to adequately protect students that belong to marginalized groups. The major obstacle that leaves these kids vulnerable is the lack of consistent and appropriate implementation of policies.

Many teachers and administrators inappropriately claim to be implementing "restorative practices" without training and understanding about what that even means. Staff should be prohibited from trying to practice Restorative Justice until they have completed proper training. The schools where it has been practiced with fidelity have been transformed into highly inclusive, welcoming, and accepting environments (Swansfield and Long Reach come to mind).

School discipline is heavily skewed toward disenfranchising Black, Brown and Special Education students. This will never stop until everyone in the building undergoes anti-bias, anti-racist, and de-escalation training.

We currently don't have sufficient policies in place to protect our LGBTQIA+ students and staff. The guidelines that launched in the fall were a step in the right direction, but these kids and teachers deserve to have their dignity and value affirmed within our policies.

Lastly, this school year has really exposed how grossly unprepared HCPSS is to address a crisis impacting specific cultural and religious groups. Our Jewish and Muslim families are in so much pain and the schools have taken an inexcusable hands-off approach to dealing with Antisemitism and Islamophobia. The board of education can't influence conditions in Gaza but they could and should support our families here who are tremendously impacted, and frightened.

What criteria should be prioritized in redistricting?

Schools anchor our community. Community stability is justifiably a principle that should be highly regarded in redistricting. As someone who attended five different Howard County Schools in five years, and was set to be redistricted again in high school, I experienced how disruptive redistricting can be for students and families. Facility utilization, another term for class sizes, must also be considered so that teachers are not overwhelmed, students are not overcrowded, and resorting to portables is minimized

All criteria and decisions must be determined with utmost transparency. HCPSS lost a lot of trust from the community in 2019 and we owe it to everyone to bend over backwards to show that we're no longer going to operate that way.

Special education funding has increased over the last several years, but special education student outcomes have not improved. How would you address the legal requirements for students with disabilities to ensure positive outcomes?

We are unquestionably failing these students and the staff members who support them. I would require the new superintendent to be accountable and transparent in how these students are cared for. Most children with IEPs spend the majority of their time in general education settings, yet we do not provide those teachers with any training that would help them better understand how to recognize and respond to their students who learn differently. It is time for everyone in our school buildings to start playing a meaningful role in special education outcomes. And it's time for leadership that will not tolerate mediocrity from central office. It's also time for a full comprehensive review of where that additional money has gone and why having it hasn't resulted in better outcomes. The whole department is past due for an audit that uses a fine-toothed comb.

What research, contract accountability and financial data would you require before supporting a procurement contract? Include in your answer what changes you would recommend to avoid service failures like we experienced recently with the bus system.

In my career, I was responsible for auditing the audits and the auditors. I pored through contracts and the information on contract execution to make sure that products needed for public health and safety were safe and effective and that the transportation that delivered and protected their precious cargo was in compliance. I audited how these providers implemented change, tracked errors, implemented corrections, and reviewed their work at regular intervals, and reported on their progress, and their lack of it. I also advocate for my community on its contract committee, requiring contractors to guarantee their work in advance and pay if they fail. I guaranteed they did their jobs. I will bring this expertise to the Board.

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