

BUTLER

APPENDIX B - Applicant Questionnaire for District 5 Delegate Vacancy

PART I: COMMUNITY AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Please list all community and civic organizations (e.g., community associations, political clubs, religious organizations, etc.) in which you are currently or have been involved during the last five years. List any offices held in such organizations and dates. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

2014-present Director of Music; Trinity UMC; New Freedom, PA

2014- present Advisor for the Winters Mill Chapter of the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

2008-2014 Vice Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church; New Freedom, PA.

1994-2013 Assistant Organist, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church; New Freedom, PA

2012-2013 Acting Director of Music; St. John the Baptist Catholic Church; New Freedom, PA

PART II: PREVIOUS CAMPAIGNS AND PUBLIC OFFICES

Have you ever run for public office or held public office? (For each public office for which you have previously run, please state the office, date of campaign, political party, if any, and outcome of election; attach additional sheets if necessary).

I have never held or run for a public office.

If you have previously run for county and/or state elective office in Maryland, do you currently have a candidate committee and campaign account? (If yes, please state the approximate balance of your campaign account).

I do not have a candidate committee or a campaign account.

PART III: PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Please state your major professional and or personal accomplishments. Confine your response to 250 words or less.

Over the years as a special education teacher in Carroll County Public Schools, I have been involved in many facets of education: implementing state assessments, developing teacher evaluation documents, holding meetings, writing Biology curriculum and IEP documents, to just plain teaching students. But my most valuable professional accomplishment was obtaining my certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 2008. Taking a year to complete from start to finish, I was required to video my teaching in several situations and analyze my strengths and weaknesses. The process also included a 3 hour on-line exam at a testing center. The fact that I passed and became one of three teachers in Carroll County that successfully achieved was the high point of my career.

The process taught me to learn to take the time to value my students, and work with them to overcome their disabilities. Much like putting a square peg into a round whole, students with disabilities don't always fit into the education scene. One of the components of the process was to analyze how assessment *should* drive instruction, and to reflect on how your "practice" impacts the student, much as a medical doctor has a practice. A good teacher does have a practice; they develop their skills of teaching over their career, utilizing the theories of learning daily. You learn how to be prescriptive, how to teach a student in a different way until they really master the skill. It was truly time and effort well spent.

Please state your major political accomplishments. Confine your response to 250 words or less.

Although I have not run for political office in Carroll County, I have been active in the Carroll County Education Association (CCEA) for most of my teaching career. In 2009, I was elected to the Executive Board of CCEA and continued to serve until I was appointed Secretary of CCEA in 2012. As a member of the Board, I attended the Maryland State Education Association convention in Ocean City for the first time in 2010 and witnessed first hand how the political process is entwined in education.

As a special education teacher, I have been frequently assigned to teach Government class with a regular educator. The class is comprised of mostly ninth graders who have little exposure or interest in the topic. My role is generally to help teach vocabulary and concepts, such as the "consent of the governed" and how a bill becomes law. The topics are challenging and difficult for our young people. The class is especially relevant during an election cycle; it is rewarding when students will stay up late to watch the State of the Union or even the World News to participate in a discussion pertaining to economics or the price of oil. That, is indeed a small victory!

Through my work in CCEA, I have been appointed to the CCPS Teacher Evaluation Committee as part of the Race to the Top initiative. I have worked with administrators and teachers in developing the new evaluation tools as required by state and federal requirements.

PART IV: DISTRICT 5 DELEGATE VACANCY

Please state why you wish to serve as the Maryland House of Delegates for District 5. Confine your response to 500 words or less.

I wish to serve as the Delegate for District 5 in Annapolis for many reasons. Northern Carroll County has been my home for the past twenty five years. I chose to raise my son here because of the excellent schools and quality of rural life. I currently teach at Winters Mill High School as a special education teacher. Previously, I have taught at Westminster High School, Old Court Middle School, and Patterson High School.

My involvement in teaching gives me an excellent background to address education issues within the state. My local involvement on the Teacher Framework Evaluation Committee for CCPS has provided me first hand exposure on the Race to the Top initiative and the challenges met in the classroom with Common Core and the PARCC assessments. As a special education teacher, I am charged with writing IEP's, holding IEP meetings, conducting educational assessments and writing reports.

I have achieved the highest level in teaching by earning my National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as an Exceptional Needs Specialist (2008). In addition to this level of professional expertise, I have earned certification as an Administrator I. I currently hold an Advanced Professional Certificate with MSDE in Administration, Special Education, Chemistry and Biology.

Prior to teaching, I was a licensed Medical Technologist and worked in hospitals and laboratories providing patient care, phlebotomy, and analyzing samples. I am familiar with the tenets of quality control, writing procedure manuals, implementing state regulations, and following safety rules. These experiences provide an excellent background for working on health care issues in the General Assembly.

My involvement with CCEA, as an Executive Board member and Secretary, has also strengthened my political beliefs. I have served on the Budget Committee in previous years and have worked to hold dues steady, while trimming excess expenditures from the budget. I have participated in yearly trips to Annapolis to discuss education issues with the Carroll County legislators and budget concerns with the Carroll County Commissioners.

I have obtained my Nutrient Management License and Certificate and have prepared Nutrient Management Plans for farms to comply with the Clean Water Act. I am familiar with COMAR regulations and Best Practices to help farmers and horse owners to protect our watersheds. As a farm and horse owner, I know first hand the issues involved with maintaining and preserving my land, caring for my animals, and maintaining a licensed stable.

I have been a professional church musician for various denominations. I have worked with music, both traditional and contemporary, and held leadership positions within my church. I also am the advisor at Winters Mill for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter.

I feel energized with the election of Governor Hogan. The Republicans have made gains in the House of Delegates; we have a chance to change the future of Maryland politics. With my extensive and varied background in education, health care, and farming, I feel qualified to serve the people of Carroll County as a Delegate to the General Assembly.

If appointed as the Maryland Delegate for District 5, do you intend to run for election to the office of Maryland House of Delegates for District 5 in 2018?

Yes, if appointed, I would run for election to the office of Maryland House of Delegates for District 5 in 2018.

PART V: PARTY AFFILIATION

Have you ever held a different party affiliation (e.g., if you were previously a Democrat or Independent, but are now a Republican, please state as such and provide details about when you changed your party affiliation)?

No, I have always been a registered Republican.

PART VI: BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

Please answer "yes" or "no" to each of the questions below. For any questions to which your answer is "yes", please provide details on a separate sheet.

- 1. Have you ever been charged with, arrested for, or convicted of any criminal offense excluding minor traffic violations? No**
- 2. Have you ever had a professional or business license suspended or revoked? No**
- 3. Have you ever been a defendant to a civil or administrative proceeding? No**
 - 1. Have you ever filed a petition for personal bankruptcy under Chapters 7, 11 or 13 of the United States Bankruptcy Code? No**
 - 2. Do you have any outstanding judgments against you? No**

PART VII: STANCE ON ISSUES

1. Please describe what you believe is the role of government

I believe the role of government is to provide economic stability, social order, national security and public services. These roles are defined in the US Constitution. Rights and responsibilities not defined in the Constitution are given to the states and to local governments. As a representative democracy, the people elect their representatives to act on their behalf to make laws, budgets, and provide services for the common good. The role of government should be as limited as possible: it must protect the freedoms that we enjoy, yet provide order and services which the community needs. Government should serve the people.

2. Please explain your economic views and major economic influences

The United States is an example of a mixed market economy. Our economy generally operates on a free-market system, where businesses function and develop; goods and services are produced until supply and demand are allowed to reach equilibrium without government intervention. Government interventions would include taxes, imposing regulations, changing interest rates and spending money to support public services needed by the community. (<http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/glossary/mixed-economy/>)

A growing economy is a sign of a prosperous community. You work hard to earn money to spend. You want your wages high and the prices low. Everyone who wants to work has a job. There is no unemployment. As people spend their money, the money goes into the businesses so that the workers can be paid. And the cycle continues on and on. The key to a growing economy is jobs. Businesses create jobs.

When businesses are not hiring people, then the unemployment rate begins to rise. People stop spending money; they become worried about their futures. A recession can

begin. And the government intervenes to turn the economy around. If the government is not successful, a depression can occur.

I believe that there are many ways to influence economic growth in our state. Producing a balanced budget in the and eliminating waste is a good beginning. Maryland needs to encourage small businesses through local incentives such as the Job Creation Tax Credit. Lower taxes on businesses and low interest loans for start-up costs will also help to attract businesses back to the state. A reduction in the gas tax followed by a decrease in spending will also help to stimulate the Maryland economy.

3. What is your position on gun control and the Second Amendment

The Second Amendment to the US Constitution protects the right to bear arms. Recent gun violence in Sandy Hook and more locally, the Columbia Mall last year, pushes governments to restrict gun ownership in the name of public safety. Maryland's current gun control law was passed during the 2013 General Assembly and is one of the strongest in the country. The law requires a handgun license with training before citizens may purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer. Fingerprinting with comprehensive background checks are required for every handgun purchase and all firearms must be registered with the Maryland State Police with few exceptions. (<http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/maryland.pdf>) Assault weapons are banned and there are limits on magazine capacity. The constitutionality of the law is again under review as twenty-one states seek to overturn it in a Federal Appeals court next month. (<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/21-states-push-to-overturn-maryland-guncontrol-law/29905016>)

The unfortunate disconnect on this topic is that the majority of gun violence in Maryland is committed by repeat felons using illegally obtained and unregistered handguns. Current gun control legislation has no answers. There has been no decline in gun violence because of the current law.

I feel that we do not need any more gun control laws; they don't solve the problem of gun violence. Every law abiding citizen should have the right to own and use a firearm without the extra burden of the cost of the application (\$50 plus fingerprinting costs), training and licensing. Owning a firearm is a choice; one that carries significant responsibility in their use. In Carroll County, many of our citizens use their firearms safely and responsibly for hunting and other recreational activities. Government should not overstep its bounds to prevent a citizen from exercising their constitutional right.

4. What is your position on abortion and euthanasia

Personally, I am against both abortion and euthanasia; both remain current moral issues in our state. My medical background supports my belief that life begins at conception; therefore abortion, to me, is murder. But I also acknowledge that many others do not share my personal beliefs. The landmark case of Roe v. Wade (1973) determined that the rights

of the unborn fetus were not protected by the Constitution. This issue continues to divide the country, as does the use of government funds to pay for abortions. The number of abortions in Maryland has decreased since 2005, but exceeds the national average (<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/sfaa/maryland.html>). This drop is abortion rates statewide can be attributed to more accessible information, and free or low cost birth control.

Euthanasia is a related topic. I am against euthanasia. Again, however, I realize that not everyone shares my position. The topic will be under debate in Annapolis in a few weeks. Titled the "Death with Dignity" bill, it will be presented by Senator Ronald Young (D-Frederick) and is modeled after a law passed in Oregon. (http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/death-with-dignity-laws-are-proposed-bringing-national-debate-to-dc-and-md/2015/01/16/8354bba8-9d09-11e4-a7ee-526210d665b4_story.html)

My concerns regarding legislation that would permit euthanasia for anyone with a terminal illness, including the elderly and the disabled are that patients may be participating due to lack of health care or family to care for them. I am in favor of pre-planned healthcare powers that would preclude extensive life saving measures such as ventilators or feeding tubes in the event of a medical emergency.

5. What is your position on taxes

Taxes are how government funds the services it provides for the people. In Maryland, it seems the list of taxes is unending; a list of 40 tax increases of \$20 billion during the O'Malley-Brown administration was an important factor in Governor Hogan's election campaign. (<http://www.changemaryland.org/2013/05/40-omalley-brown-tax-hikes-will-cost-20-billion-by-2018/#.VOfkqfnF-So>) Here are some highlights: gas tax, gun registration fees, the "rain" tax, corporate income and sales tax, personal income tax, property tax, sales and use tax, estate and Inheritance tax... the list just seems to go on and on. We had become a tax and spend state during the previous administration. As a result, businesses have moved and people have left the state due to Maryland's high taxes.

My position on taxes is that you can't spend more than you take in. The budget must be balanced and whenever tax revenues decline, the budget must be cut. That's what happens in my house.

Taxes need to be reasonable. Current legislation on the gas tax provides for a sliding scale of taxation tied to the inflation index. As inflation increases, the gas tax will increase regardless of the cost. This is not a reasonable tax on the middle class and businesses.

Taxes need to be used for specific funding. The gas tax monies should go in the Transportation Fund to maintain roads. Up until last year, the Transportation monies were

used to balance the budget. A referendum corrected that practice; but as a result of years of neglect, Maryland's roads and bridges are in disrepair.

I believe that lowered taxes will encourage citizens to spend more money. This has been evident with the lower gas prices we all have enjoyed. Because it costs less money to fill up your car, you may take that savings and go out to dinner. That same savings is seen during sales tax holidays, where items may be purchased without paying the 6% Maryland sales tax. More recently, Energy Star appliances were on sales tax holiday to encourage Marylanders to purchase large appliances at great savings and save on their energy bills as well.

The General Assembly will work hard to limit Governor Hogan's ability to reduce taxes and balance the budget, even though his election was a mandate on Maryland's excessive tax rates.

6. What is your position on common core

As an educator, I can say first hand that the implementation of Common Core has been a disaster in our schools. On paper, it really seemed like a great idea, didn't it? Who wouldn't want to have a common curriculum throughout all of the schools in America? It would be great for families who moved during the school year; children everywhere would have the same books, and learn the same things. Unfortunately, that was quite a fairy tale; or was it just a sweet piece of cheese in a gigantic mouse trap?

Common Core is essentially an unfunded mandate from the federal government. It transfers the control of public education from the state and local governments to the federal government at the expense of state budgets. The monitoring of the progress of the Common Core is accomplished through the administration of a test, known as the PARCC assessment (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Pearson, the textbook publisher and producer of the computer driven assessment, has reaped the most from the PARCC assessment with its implementation in over forty five states and the District.

In 2010, CCPS was reluctant to participate in President O'bama's Race to the Top (RTT) movement, which drove the state of Maryland to accept the Common Core standards with the prize of the accompanying federal funds. Over \$520,000 has been received over the past four years by CCPS to pay for curriculum alignment, training, and upgrading technology to implement the PARCC assessments.

(<http://www.carrollk12.org/instruction/instruction/mdeducation/default.asp>) The county still requires more computers and technology upgrades to fully implement the assessments in our schools, especially at the elementary and middle school levels.

Another frustration with the PARCC assessments is that they are taken several times during the school year; each testing window covers a period of several days. Students lose significant class time to take the tests, tests that have no set passing scores as yet because they have not been normed or standardized. Computers that would have been used for instruction in classes are removed from classrooms to be used for PARCC testing. Student scores will ultimately be used as graduation requirements and teacher evaluations as required in RTT legislation.

At the very least, Common Core and its unknown measure of success, the PARCC assessments, should be put on hold. Current legislation in Annapolis would put the breaks on the program, at least temporarily. HB1167, which delays the use of student test data in teacher evaluations, and HB1001, which is linked to the federal ESEA reauthorization (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) have been passed by the House and are awaiting the Governor's signature to become law.

(<http://marylandreporter.com/2014/04/02/common-core-relief-bills-heading-to-governor/>)

Common Core won't totally go away or Maryland would be in violation of the RTT; all of the grant monies have already been spent. An acceptable test to replace the PARCC assessment would also need to be developed since the previous assessment tool, the HSA's (High School Assessments) are no longer considered valid measures for English and Math.

7. How would you work to create jobs

Businesses create jobs, which are essential in order to improve our economy. To develop new jobs in Maryland, I would support legislation that would promote business growth and provide low cost loans for small businesses to increase their money supply. I would support new home starts, which in turn, would help to create more construction jobs and increase the population growth and provide more tax revenue.

Not only do we need to create jobs, we need to create highly skilled jobs. Maryland, by virtue of its location in the Mid-Atlantic, has the potential to develop businesses in biotechnology, biomedical research, telecommunications, and defense. The state has tremendous infrastructure that supports trade throughout the country: BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, the Port of Baltimore, interstate highways, and the CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Rail carriers.

(<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/economy/html/economy.html>)

Agriculture is another source of jobs, especially in poultry sales which have gained in popularity as a component in a healthy diet. Over 2 million acres of the state are in farmland; money crops include corn, soybeans, tobacco and tomatoes.

One of the most prohibitive costs to the creation of new jobs is the cost of health insurance. I would support changes to the Affordable Care Act that would relax the mandates on small businesses.

8. Please explain your position on Obamacare and healthcare in general

Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010. The law federalizes health insurance with mandated coverage. Although the law was found to be constitutional by the Supreme Court, there are parts of the law which seem suspect. Obamacare requires all citizens to purchase health insurance or suffer a penalty. The implementation of the penalties for employers took place on January 1, 2015. It remains to be seen how businesses will fare under this part of the regulation.

I am against a federally mandated health insurance program for these reasons: First, many employees will earn less take home pay due to increased health insurance costs. Employers will stop offering health insurance as a benefit and force employees to purchase health insurance on government-run exchanges such as marylandhealthconnection.gov. Individual health policies will increase in price because of the requirements of Obamacare. Many employers will eliminate full-time positions and move employees into part-time jobs of 30 hours or less to avoid paying mandated penalties. I feel that Obamacare is a jobs crusher. It is harmful to the middle class who continue to struggle to maintain their standard of living.

Health care is one of the most serious problems affecting our country. We desperately need reforms that will reduce health care costs, provide adequate insurance, and maintain good health. Affordable health care is in a crisis, with or without Obamacare. Many good doctors are leaving the profession because of lower reimbursements and more federal regulations.

Everyone wants the best when it comes to our health. We want the latest treatments, the best doctors, and the best hospitals. But that comes with a cost. We expect our insurance to cover it, all of it. And we forget how insurance really is supposed to work.

The concept of insurance, after all, is that you don't use it. We purchase car insurance but we don't use it for a small fender-bender. We pay for that out of our pocket. We pride ourselves with a clean driving record and how long its been since we made a claim for that car we totaled. That money we paid over the years, went into a pot of money to be used to pay our claims. If the company is lucky, we never had a claim. If you are a bad driver, after a while, you will be looking for a new insurance company.

Health insurance is a totally different animal. We have it and we want to use it. We use it every chance we can, as often as we can. And we expect our insurance to pay the bill. We want to choose our doctors, our plans, but we want our insurance at bargain prices. We

are not used to shopping for the best price for medical procedures; and because of this, the cost varies from doctor to doctor. Pharmaceuticals are another area of increased cost. Even with supplemental insurance plans, prescription drug costs continue to escalate to unrealistic levels.

Compounding the current health care crisis, is eldercare. Nursing homes, assisted living programs, and home-bound services are also skyrocketing. Nursing home bills rapidly can deplete savings and assets with costs around \$9,000 per month in the Carroll County area. These costs are not covered under Medicare and other health insurance policies and must be paid for out-of-pocket.

One solution to the health care crisis would be to repeal Obamacare. If individuals were able to select only the services required to maintain their health, costs of unneeded services would be removed. The use of urgent care facilities and nurse practitioners could also drive the costs down. And finally, the utilization of preventive health care services could avert serious medical conditions from developing.

9. What is your stance on converting from a commissioner form of government to a county executive form of government

I am against converting to a county executive form of government. Carroll County encompasses such divergent areas from the north to the south. The current system of five Commissioners better represents the constituents in each area and allows for compromise to make the best decisions for the county.

Converting to a County Executive model, I believe, would give too much power to one person, even with an elected County Council of members representing the different areas of the county. Although the County Executive would be an elected position, he or she would not represent all areas of the county equally.

Historically, Carroll County's government structure was changed from three Commissioners to five in 2004, though the county is in the second term of the current structure. The voters have voted several times on a referendum to convert to an executive form of government and have rejected the issue every time. I feel that the current structure of five Commissioners has not been given enough time to truly evaluate their effectiveness. Ultimately, it is the voters who will decide how local government will be structured in Carroll County.