

**APPENDIX A - Declaration of Intent to Apply for House of Delegates District 5**

**Republican Central Committee of Carroll County  
Declaration of Intent to Apply for House of Delegates District 5**

I, Jeffrey M. Peters, residing at ██████████ Millers, MD 21102  
(Print or type name) (Address, City)

Hereby declare my application for House of Delegates District 5. It is my wish that the Carroll County Republican Central Committee (hereinafter "CCRCC") consider me as a candidate to fill the vacancy.

By signing this declaration, I certify that I meet all the constitutional eligibility requirements to serve as the Delegate for District 5. I acknowledge that the CCRCC will release my name as a declared candidate and my answers to the attached questions.

In addition, I acknowledge the CCRCC, its members, officers, and persons affiliated therewith will not be liable for any other damages incurred by myself or any other party as a result of my application for the House of Delegates District 5 vacancy.

Jeffrey Peters February 19, 2015  
Applicant's Signature Date

**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.**

Knights of Columbus

- \* 2012-2014: State Council, District Warden, Knights of Columbus District 21 (Carroll County)
- \* 2011-Present: 4th Degree Assembly 379 (Carroll County) Officer
- \*\*2014-Present: Faithful Navigator/Chairman
- \* 2010-Present: Council 9127 (Manchester) Officer
- \*\*2013-2014: Grand Knight/Chairman
- \* 2011-2014: Thomas Beckett Squires Circle (Manchester) Chief Squire/Director

Carroll County Republican Central Committee

Kiwanis International

\* 2013-Present: Greater Westminster Kiwanis Club (Westminster) Officer

\*\* Current: President Elect

Carroll County Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast

\* Steering committee member

We the People

\* Participant

Special Olympics/4H

\* Therapeutic Riding volunteer

St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church (Manchester), life long member

\* Youth Catechist (New Testament), Adult Educator (Saints and Religious Writings)

\* Eucharistic Minister, Usher

## **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 ran for a position in the Carroll County Republican Central Committee in 2010. It was not successful.

**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 an active 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.**

I obtained a Master of Arts in the field of Western Classics, and I received a Defarari scholarship to Catholic University of America where I am finishing my dissertation for my PhD. I have worked closely with world famous scholars in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century literature and experts on religious and political writings that have shaped our country. I went to Calvert Hall College, where I graduated very high in my class, and I attended Saint Mary's College of Maryland where I did the same.

I have written a lot of articles over the past ten years, and I had pieces published in many online and physical newspapers and magazines. I am a researcher by trade, and my research has contributed to the work of many scholars and businesses. I served as an archaeological researcher/archival researcher for a firm that helped Fort Benning, Georgia become compliant with the National Register of Historic Places. I documented, digitized, and summarized 50 years worth of construction, installation, and facility records (tens of thousands of records) in addition to detailing historic events and historically notable individuals that were part of the base's operations between World War I and Vietnam.

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

I was heavily involved in the two petition drives in Carroll County (in-state and gay marriage) which successfully placed both pieces of legislation on the ballot. I have worked on dozens of campaigns at all levels, with most of them being successful. I have helped many businesses and conservative groups fight against various government encroachments, including O'Malley's gun grab.

#### **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 worked for four years in the Maryland House of Delegates and I witnessed firsthand how frustrating the job can be. Being a mere staffer is extremely limiting, and there are many in power who refuse to listen to anyone but another elected official. There were many instances where I had the knowledge and answers to important questions, but I was unable to participate in the conversation. In those four years, I worked with dozens of Delegates on both sides, and I was able to answer questions as to the ramifications of various pieces of legislation that few others could, but I was still not able to do all I could to fight against bad legislation in Annapolis.

As a staffer, I worked many long days and devoted much of my time, for which I did not receive payment. I did not take vacation or sick days. I have only ever missed two days of school in my whole life, and that was due to my grandmother dying shortly after Thanksgiving when I was in second grade. I am not one to skip on my obligations, and I will fully perform the job. My research skills will allow me to serve as a strong advocate for conservative values, and my participation in community groups gives me a strong connection to the needs of our citizens.

Annapolis is extremely frustrating, and I want to do what I can to stand up against the rampant corruption. Too many show up wanting only a paycheck and to indulge in the gifts of the office. I do not want a title, and I have never sought money for money's sake. I want only to be able to fight for what is right.

I fully intend to run in 2018 whether I am appointed or not. I intended to run in 2014 before redistricting removed the seat that would have been opened by Delegate Nancy Stocksdale's retirement. I could not run out of respect for Delegate Donald Elliott, with whom I shared an office. He was a gentleman in every regard, and I could not oppose him because of our friendship.

**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**

#### **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**

#### **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**

1. 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**

Government exists for two reasons: to protect the people and to protect contractual bonds. Government has grown from those two basic roles to become an ever-encroaching system. Adam Smith believed that, as long as there is no criminal deceit, the basic forces of supply and demand would allow for the most efficient system to operate. The government's economic role was merely to ensure that monopolies did not abusively dominate a market, and it was obvious to Smith and in our current time that monopolies mostly come about through the actions of the government (unfair regulatory practices, for instance, keep out competition or high taxation is cost prohibitive for small businesses to start).

The government does not grant our inalienable rights nor can it take them away. The government exists to serve the people, but there are those, as we are warned in the Federalist Papers (10), that will always try to abuse the system to bring harm to others. There must always be a check and balance, within the Federal Government, between the Federal and State Governments, and between the people and the government. Any domination by one group tends to allow those who want power, riches, or other vices to take advantage of the system and hurt others. I have seen the worst abuses by even those with little government power, and the role of the people is to stop them.

Government is necessary, but corruption is a problem that we must fight against. Our system is the best system, but all are imperfect and flawed because of human nature. Our Forefathers recognized this and gave us the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and so many great works to bolster the people and ensure that they will always fight for what is right.

### **1.2. Please explain your economic views and major economic influences**

I have studied Adam Smith at the graduate level. In the Theory of Moral Sentiments, Smith explains that the primary desire of individuals is for approval. Personal identity is based on the input from others, and society serves as a mirror for us to figure out who we are. This philosophy served as the basis for Smith theorizing that a supply and demand based system would ultimately serve the people better than any other.

Coming from the Mercantilistic monopoly system, Smith realized that a government can make “winners” and “losers” at the detriment of the buyer. If people are given a choice, they will ultimately do what is right for them, which is not greed but necessity. They will optimize their purchases, and sellers will optimize how they obtain their goods to sell. By allowing a system where companies can fail and small businesses can grow, businesses are encouraged to innovate

and find new markets to tap into. We all want to become successful, and that desire is what spurs a competitive market to achieve great things.

I will always keep in mind William Godwin's statement that humans unfairly praise those who have more wealth than they could ever need. There are many sycophants and clingers who will praise such individuals in hope for scraps of the wealth and power. Why do people praise those like George Soros or Warren Buffet who do very little with their money but wield it solely to push for their radical ideologies? They keep their donations to charities as a hostage to gain support, which is not charity at all. Yet they pontificate on the need for the working people to have to pay more. They will not divest all of their money, yet they demand it of others.

Smith would not support a system that Godwin warned against, and, instead, capitalism prohibits such a system. Only through increasing government regulations, expanding taxes, and destroying a level playing field do such individuals come about, and they perpetuate a broken system to keep out the honest businessmen.

### **1.3. What is your position on gun control and the Second Amendment**

I opposed the O'Malley gun grab and I worked with many to stand against it. The Second Amendment ensured that the people will always be able to serve as a balance against a corrupt, encroaching government. There are many in power who either fear guns for some personal, inexplicable reason, or they do not like the idea of the people serving as a check to abuse. Fear has been used in the past to disarm a populace and bring about the worst atrocities, and we should be vigilant to ensure such does not happen here.

### **4. What is your position on abortion and euthanasia**

4.

Life begins at conception. I have written heavily on this topic. I have also marched proudly in the March for Life in Annapolis many times, including at the front in full regalia. We have a right to life because life is granted by God. This is not religious, but an unwillingness to accept that the human body is a commodity to be bought and used. Life is a gift, and it is precious. There are those who will toss away innocent life, yet demand rights for animals at the same time. I will never be able to understand such a mentality.

In Annapolis, I would fight against euthanasia. There is no way to medically claim that it is appropriate. We do not have the right to live a "pain free" life, nor is there such a thing. Such arguments are mere excuses to justify murder.

Although abortion will not be overturned here, I would fight to ensure that we have data on the amount of abortions in this state and who is having an abortion. I have seen many poor women taken advantage of and forced into abortion clinics, and I believe that the actual numbers and demographics will show people that there are groups that are being targeted and manipulated by abortion clinics.

### **5. What is your position on taxes**

I believe that the sales tax increase has driven people to purchasing items in other states, that the cigarette tax is just a poor excuse to grab more money, that the Rain Tax was unnecessary and did more harm than good, and that there are many ways we can create a fairer tax code.

When I worked in Annapolis, I worked closely with the Tax Foundation on many issues. One issue was to add a CPI adjustment to the Maryland income tax. The adjustment would ensure that inflation would not result in us paying more in taxes even though taxes are not “going up.” As years pass, a \$2000 exemption is not worth the same as it once was.

I also worked on the Death Tax issue, and my work was taken by the leadership in Annapolis (charts and data) to justify a watered-down version. Similarly, I devoted hundreds of hours to the Transportation Trust Fund Protection Act. The legislature lessened the protections of the proposal before passing it.

#### **1.6. What is your position on common core**

Regardless of what Common Core may have been in the '90s, it has been twisted into a disaster. Local Boards of Education should be the primary deciders of curriculum, and the Federal/State government has encroached far too much on what the curriculum could be. The government has gone beyond what the definition of “standards” are. It is one thing to have a compatible standardized test, but it is another to force schools to completely change to comply.

The goal of standardized tests should have been to allow colleges to rate applicants and for the taxpayer to determine if there are failing schools. Instead, they are a tool to homogenize schools into one system. Private schools are not under the same requirements, yet are able to produce some of the brightest students. Standardized tests won't create good students, and should not be prescriptive but descriptive of the system. We need to know what schools are failing, but we should not create a system that cripples already excellent schools. We are bringing the best down to the low, not raising the low up.

#### **1.7. How would you work to create jobs**

Most of the regulatory groups in Maryland were devoted to making it harder for businesses to operate. Often, there were people placed in charge that seemed to hate the practitioners of the industry that they regulate. I have worked for businesses trying to get through zoning hearings or deal with regulatory compliance, and it can quickly become combative.

Regulators act based on the philosophy that comes from the top. By paying more attention to who is putting forth regulations and how, you can ensure that the bad regulations and bad regulators are not put into power.

The other problem with creating jobs in Maryland is our high tax rate. We have plenty of people with degrees, yet they cannot find work because the businesses that would hire them moved elsewhere. The government also destroyed our industry in Maryland. My cousin worked at Sparrows Point and made a very good living. It was a tough job yet he was able to provide for his family without a problem. Environmentalists and regulators made it impossible to continue

making steel in this state, and we lost a lot of very good jobs without a good reason. I would fight against such actions and ensure that such nonsense does not continue.

**1.8. Please explain your position on Obamacare and healthcare in general**

When the Obamacare issue first came about, I wrote an article saying that we need to focus more on our spiritual health than our physical health. We have been dominated by a mindset that says that any problem, no matter how minor, needs heavy drugs. Instead of trying to accept that life is difficult, we are coddled and taught to seek only pleasure. Obama took advantage of this conditioning and preyed upon the weaknesses of the elderly and sick. He pushed through a radical and dangerous government mandate that has utterly failed. In Maryland, it was an excuse to funnel money to a select few, and it was an utterly corrupt disaster.

Before Obamacare, much of our healthcare expenses came from unnecessary medications or elective surgeries. Some costs were very high because there was nothing keeping trial lawyers from receiving incredibly ridiculous amounts in damages. Tort reform would have cut down on costs and helped make insurance more affordable. If there was an open insurance purchasing system across state lines, then prices would also drop. Finally, if people were not forced into various levels of coverage (in Maryland, I have to pay for gynecological treatments that I could never possibly use), then that too would have lowered costs.

Obamacare was unnecessary. There were many ways to lower costs, and much of our expenditures were based more on a mindset than a medical need. We have the best healthcare system in the world, and yet some people wanted to destroy it.

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

Having to constantly turn to Annapolis and our delegation to pass local legislation is a problem. However, a chartered government has the possibility of being taken over and corrupted. I have met a lot of politicians in my life, and even the good ones are not perfect. We have seen time after time the abuses that come with such an office, and on both sides of the political spectrum.

Though a benevolent dictator is said to be able to work wonders, benevolence by dictators is a fantasy. Our current system allows for Commissioners to serve as a check against each other. Although it is a problem that they have both the legislative and executive power under themselves, an undivided executive would be hard to balance against.

All systems that we could move towards have possible flaws, and some are very dangerous. We are a small, rural county, and we need to stay a small, rural county. Too many people forget that.