

The People's Voice, LLC

Ethics Ballot TM

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

Se August 16, 2018

2018 Howard County Candidate Questionnaire

MD General Assembly

Thank you for taking the time to fill out The People's Voice (TPV) / Ethics Ballot 2018 Candidate Questionnaire which will be used in the TPV endorsement process.

Publication: Your answers are considered "on the record." They will be circulated to all members of the TPV Board and may be published on the [TPV website](#).

Endorsement Process: TPV will endorse in several local races for the General Election in 2018. Click on the "Ethics Ballots" tab at www.ethicsballot.com, and dropdown to Criteria and Logos, for further details on endorsement criteria.

Please return questionnaires via email to ethicsballot@gmail.com by midnight on **Monday, September 3, 2018**. Please email any questions you have about this questionnaire. A Board Member will respond, confirming receipt. We cannot endorse a candidate who does not completely fill out and return the questionnaire.

Candidate Information

Name	Steven M. Bolen
Phone	443.420.7538
Website	http://www.stevenbolenformd.com
Campaign Account Name	Friends of Steven M Bolen
Treasurer	Linda Kuberek
Chairman	Steven Bolen
Campaign Manager	N/A
Current Funds Balance	\$1,605.11 (as of 8/21/18)

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2018 Questionnaire Howard County – MD Delegate and Senator Candidates

1. Why are you running for this office? What qualifications do you uniquely bring to hold this office?

I am running for House of Delegates in District 9A to serve the citizens of Maryland.

Along with my wife, Linda, I am a long-time resident of Western Howard County, and I care deeply about the challenges that face our community.

I am a 27-year veteran of federal service - US Intelligence, NASA, and the US Air Force, and have taken an oath to protect our Constitution, to defend our liberties, our American way of life, and the sacred principles of democracy upon which our country stands.

I left federal service last year, but my love and passion for our country and public service have not ended. Now, I want to serve my community and Maryland with the same level of devotion and commitment I gave our Nation.

I worked at supervisory levels building, leading, and collaborating with teams across global enterprises to meet critical, national priority needs. I managed programs with budgets in the \$100's millions, supervising government civilians, contractors, and uniformed military personnel delivering successful global solutions to close the gap on national security issues.

I have earned a Doctorate's Degree in Electrical Engineering and have been invited to speak at international conferences and to participate in international earth-remote sensing science projects.

I will leverage my leadership experience, education, and passion for serving by fighting in Annapolis for issues that are important to District 9A and Maryland.

2. Describe why you feel you have a viable campaign.

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My campaign has a well-honed, established game plan for reaching voters that is on target to achieve our election goals.

- I am a patriot, a first-time candidate who is not a career politician, and I will serve as a genuine, independent voice for District 9A.
- We have an active social media presence that has gained momentum since the Primaries. We are reaching a significant number of unique viewers on recently released videos.
- We have created a targeted door-knocking campaign that is on track to reach our door-knocking goals.
- We have partnered enthusiastically with other candidates to help get out votes for our respective campaigns and for Democrats. For example, we have participated in a joint canvassing event, shared a booth at the 2018 Howard County Fair, and plan to participate in a joint event at the Korean Festival scheduled this Fall.
- We also have several additional voter persuasion and get-out-the-vote activities now underway to help get my campaign to the finish line.

3. How do you believe one eliminates the appearance of conflicts regarding campaign contributions?

I am running on a platform of responsible, transparent, accountable government. My duty is to the people of District 9A and Maryland. My policies, decisions, and support for legislation will be based on what I believe to be the best for our community as a whole and not on the needs of any one campaign contributor.

4. If you are elected, or reelected, what are your top priorities for 2019?

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I will focus on:

- Growing our communities, protecting our locally-owned small businesses, and incentivizing entrepreneurship.
- Controlling and managing development in smart and sustainable ways that emphasize the need to keep up our infrastructure - schools, roads, bridges, stormwater management, first responders, and medical facilities. We need to protect the environment, preserve our agricultural heritage, and not place burdens on taxpayers they cannot afford.
- Controlling healthcare costs by building a patient-focused system that emphasizes prevention, wellness, and chronic disease management - and, that includes mental health and substance abuse care, and affordable prescription drugs.
- Giving our children the best start in life that is possible by providing them with an exceptional education. I will insist that we keep our schools safe, fully funded, attract and keep the best teachers, and provide more diverse paths to post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Keeping the environment clean by building Maryland's renewable, clean energy economy, and by working with regional neighbors to protect our vital Chesapeake Bay.

5. Do you believe that local Boards of Education in MD should have the right to terminate their Superintendents for cause?

Yes. Local Boards of Education are elected to represent the people of their community. The Superintendent should be accountable and responsive to the needs of those people and held to the highest standards of ethical conduct. Local boards should have the power to terminate the tenure of a Superintendent if they feel that the standards of transparency, accountability, and ethics are violated.

6. Would you be willing to sponsor a Bill that elects the Howard County Board of Education members by district, and voted on by district? What districts do you believe are best to use? Why?

Yes. Board of Education (BoE) members should be accountable to their local communities. Parents and members of the community should know who is directly accountable to them. County districts would be a good start for establishing BoE districts.

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7. Do you believe that local Boards of Education should control their calendars without mandated dates to start or end the school year?

Yes. Local jurisdictions should control their calendars according to the community's needs.

8. Would you be willing to sponsor a Bill that shifts the burden of proof in Special Education litigation from parents/guardians to the County School System?

Yes.

9. Do you believe that development fees should be increased in Howard County? Would you be willing to sponsor or vote for a Bill that allows Howard County to increase those fees via local control of this topic? Would you be willing to enable Howard County that right in perpetuity? For all, why or why not?

I believe that local control is almost always better and that the county council should have the power to regulate development fees. However, the state legislature should have oversight to ensure that growth across the state is fair and balanced and that county councils are being transparent in their decisions.

10. Do you support or oppose the Potomac Pipeline? Would you allow the transportation of natural gas through Maryland by pipelines?

No. We should, instead, be concentrating our efforts into building a renewable, clean energy economy for Maryland.

11. Do you support the ban on styrofoam in carryout packaging? Would you sponsor or support a ban or a fee on plastic grocery bags?

I support a ban on styrofoam packaging, plastic grocery bags, and, additionally, the use of plastic straws in restaurants. If the legislature cannot agree on a ban, I would also support a fee for use.

12. What is your position on increased gun control? How would you go about increasing safety for our schools and/or other public venues?

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I support stronger legislation, such as:

- HB1646 that ensures domestic abusers turn in their firearms;
- HB888 banning bump stocks in Maryland; and
- SB1265 that created a School Safety Fund of \$12.5 million in safety grants to local school systems to conduct school safety evaluations and school resource officer (SRO) training, and to carry out other school safety initiatives.

I also support "Red Flag" laws. But, these laws must carry proper oversight and control, and authorization to government agencies to carry out these laws must be specifically defined.

We also need to improve mental health care for our citizens at-large and provide increased school-based counseling and behavioral health support training to school faculty and staff.

13. Describe positions you have taken, or votes you have made, or causes you have championed, which you feel are the most important. Include information on any position or vote you regret, or about which you feel differently.

I believe in transparency and accountability in government. I will work to grow our communities in smart and sustainable ways - that protects our environment, preserves our agricultural heritage, and is accountable to the taxpayer. I stand up for our children to give them the educational opportunities they need to be competitive and succeed in life. I will work across the aisle to build an affordable, patient-focused healthcare system that serves the citizens of our state - and, that includes mental health and substance abuse care, and affordable prescription drugs. I will work with our regional neighbors to protect our vital Chesapeake Bay, and I will work to build Maryland's renewable, clean energy economy.

14. Choose from topics below on womens' rights and describe your positions, especially regarding any MD law you believe needs changing.

Employment (wage disparities, family leave)

Safety (human trafficking, domestic abuse)

Reproductive health

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I support:

- Equal pay, and equal career advancement, for equal work. I believe that legislative policies should focus on the family and help parents engage in their children's scholastic achievements, medical care, mental health care, and special needs free from concerns of holding back their careers or impacting their paycheck.
- Legislation that will require training for commercial truck drivers, hotel workers, and other businesses to recognize and report human rights violations.
- A woman's right to make choices about her reproductive health that are informed by her faith, medical concerns, and psychological needs.

15. How would you improve community living opportunities for people with disabilities?

We need to:

- Improve local mobility through multiple modes of transit;
- Expand options for affordable housing that meets the needs of people with disability;
- Encourage local businesses to hire persons with disabilities; and,
- Provide counseling and support for community-based assistance programs to help people with disabilities live independently.

We should support organizations like the Arc of Howard County and the global volunteer movement, "Best Buddies."

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16. How much time do you believe should pass before it is allowed, in Ethics Regulations, before a prior elected official can be compensated by a private company that could have benefited from the decisions of that official?

An elected official should be required to wait 12 months after the end of the fiscal cycle in which they left office.

They should not be compensated by a private company until after the budgetary cycle in which they have created, supported, or voted on legislation has ended, plus a 12 month "cooling off." We need to reduce potential conflict of interest concerns between private compensation and legislative actions.

17. Have you ever testified before the MD General Assembly? If so, describe positions you have taken. For incumbents, please feel free to mention any particular positions or sponsored Bills you want to address.

I have not testified before the MD General Assembly.

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