

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot™

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

March 5, 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 Primary Election in 2018, and will likely add more races to The Ethics Ballot for the General Election. See [www.ethicsballot.com](http://www.ethicsballot.com) for more information on Board Members and "Ethics Ballot" tab for endorsement criteria details.

Please return questionnaires via email to [ethicsballot@gmail.com](mailto:ethicsballot@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**. Please email any questions you have about this questionnaire. A Board Member will respond.

#### Candidate Information

Name	Vanessa Atterbeary
Phone	(410) 409-5560
Website	<a href="http://www.vanessaatterbeary.org">www.vanessaatterbeary.org</a>
Campaign Account Name	Committee To Elect Vanessa Atterbeary
Treasurer	Veronica Morrow
Chairman	Vanessa Atterbeary
Campaign Manager	Stephanie Binetti
Funds Balance	\$35,000

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot™

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

### 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 passionate about community service and the issues that are of concern to my constituents in District 13 where I was raised and now reside. I am also running for office to protect women, children and families. Economic opportunity, education, the environment and senior issues are all areas where I believe I can make a difference. I believe I have an obligation to pass on to my children and future generations the same great quality of life I was given having been born and raised in Howard County. Aside from my passion, my qualifications include: a great Howard County Public Schools education; a degree in Government from the College of William and Mary; a J.D. from The Villanova University School of Law; and several years of experience as a practicing attorney. I also traversed our great state as a member of Leadership Maryland's Class of 2012.

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

I believe I have a viable campaign because I feel I have proven to the voters through hard work and results that I have, can and will get the job done.

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

Conflicts of interest regarding campaign contributions can be eliminated through complete transparency.

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

If I am re-elected, my top priorities for 2019 would be: 1) Education, specifically ensuring the funding and implementation of universal pre-k; 2) Domestic Violence & Gun Violence Prevention; and, 3) the election of Howard county school board members by the districts in which they reside. I will continue to fight for stricter gun laws to protect our children and families and introduce legislation to strengthen Maryland's domestic violence laws.

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

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot <sup>TM</sup>

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

Yes. I introduced legislation in the 2017 and 2018 sessions that would allow local jurisdictions to terminate their local Superintendents for cause. The Ways and Means Committee decided to take the issue up in a study during the interim. I am committed to re-introducing the legislation for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time and to working with the committee to ensure its passage.

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. In the 2016 and 2017 sessions, I introduced local legislation to accomplish just this. For the legislation to pass, a compromise was made so that 5 of the Howard County Board of Education members were required to reside in districts that mirrored the current council districts; however, they would be voted on by the entire county. The compromise, on my part and other members of the Howard County Delegation, was that the members would be voted on “at-large” despite having to live in a certain district. I am 100% committed to introducing local legislation in 2019 that would require 5 of the Howard County Board of Education members to reside in and be voted on by residents in their districts.

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

Yes. This year has taught all of Maryland that the Governor controlling local school calendars does not work. Each jurisdiction is different in population, religious/ethnic celebrations, weather, population, etc. There isn't a “one-size fits all” approach that will accommodate the diverse jurisdictions within Maryland. The local Boards of Education are best suited to make these decisions.

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? Would you be willing to enable Howard County that right in perpetuity? For all, why or why not?

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot™

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

Absolutely! Howard County's development fees are significantly below similar counties, including neighboring Montgomery County. I am horrified that developers can pay a nominal fee and overdevelop in areas, which in turn results in overcrowding in our schools. I have 3 children, ages 6, 4 and 3. My children will be in the Howard County Public School System for a long time. I do not want my children or other children to be subjected to overcrowded classes, portables, budget cuts and other negative ramifications due to over-development.

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

Oppose. I am concerned about the Potomac pipeline's potential impact on our water quality and our contribution to climate pollution. The Maryland Department of the Environment needs to conduct a full study of the impact of the transportation of natural gas by pipeline.

**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?**

Yes, I support the ban on styrofoam in carryout packaging and I would sponsor or support a ban or a fee on plastic grocery bags

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

In the 2018 legislative session, I sponsored and successfully passed 2 pieces of legislation that increase gun control in Maryland. HB 1646 ensures that domestic abusers have turned in their firearms and HB 819 creates a transparent process for handgun permit appeals. I also strongly supported and advocated for HB 1302, Red-Flag legislation and HB888, banning bumpstocks in Maryland. I supported HB 904, prohibiting the possession of firearms on public, higher education campuses. I also supported SB 1265, which creates a School Safety Fund of \$12.5 million in school safety grants to local school systems for de-escalation and threat reporting training, school resource officer (SRO) training, conducting school safety evaluations, establishing reporting mechanisms, funding wraparound services for individuals exhibiting concerning behavior, and more.

**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.**

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot <sup>TM</sup>

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

The following pieces of legislation I sponsored, championed and ultimately passed: 1) HB 301 The Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act of 2018; 2) HB 1646 The Domestic Violence Gun Transfer Bill; and 4) HB 616 (in the 2017 legislative session) allowing the local school jurisdictions to create a process in which pregnant and parenting teens can graduate high school.

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

Employment (wage disparities, family leave)

I was a co-sponsor of, and supported HB 1, Earned Sick Leave in legislative session 2017. I spoke in favor of HB 1 during the House floor debate (from the perspective of a working mother) and I issued an OpEd on how the Governor's veto of HB 1 was detrimental to Marylanders. I supported the override of the Governor's veto of HB 1 in the 2018 legislative session.

I also support the fight for \$15 and an actual living wage so that teachers, first responders and working parents can live where they work and support their families.

Safety (human trafficking, domestic abuse)

I believe that various industries in Maryland need training on how to identify human trafficking (trucking, hotels & restaurants). I worked on legislation that would require truck drivers to take a course on human trafficking identification. The legislation passed the House and unfortunately stalled in the Senate this year.

Each year I introduce legislation to strengthen Maryland's laws related to domestic abuse. This year, I was able to pass HB 1303, which expands the circumstances under which a protective order can be granted. I have also successfully passed legislation permitting a Maryland resident to seek a protective order for abuse that occurred out-of-state if the parties reside in Maryland. I will continue to fight for greater protections and recourse for victims of domestic abuse.

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

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot <sup>TM</sup>

**3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042**

Transportation/job opportunities & training/workforce development/increased wages for care takers (I supported the Keep the Door Open Act).

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot <sup>TM</sup>

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

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?

In 2017, the General Assembly passed legislation limiting various possible conflict of interests to after 1 year of the elected official's service. The above example should also be 1 year.

17. Have you ever testified before the MD General Assembly? If so, describe positions you have taken.

I testify on all legislation I introduce.

# The People's Voice, LLC

## Ethics Ballot <sup>TM</sup>

3205 B Corporate Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

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