

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 for more information on Board Members and "Ethics Ballot" tab for endorsement criteria details.

Please return questionnaires via email to 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	Eric
Phone	Ebersole
Website	Ericebersole.org
Campaign Account Name	Elect Eric Ebersole
Treasurer	Caroline Ebersole
Chairman	James Ebersole
Campaign Manager	Click here to enter text.
Funds Balance	\$45000

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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 have served in the House of Delegates for four sessions. I bring my experience of 35 years as public school teacher. I feel my work in the legislature has just begun. I am finding a good lane for influence there.
2. Describe why you feel you have a viable campaign.
I have sufficient funds. I have a turf plan that will take me to 10,000 doors. I have a mailing plan. I am working with the other incumbents in D12, both because we have an excellent working relationship and because we can work together toward a successful campaign.
3. How do you believe one eliminates the appearance of conflicts regarding campaign contributions?
One should never make decisions based financial support from a group or individual. Listening to well measured opinions and making decisions based on constituent outlooks is the best way to from my own opinions
4. If you are elected, or reelected, what are your top priorities for 2019?
Further enacting the recommendations of the Kirwan commission, specifically more universal pre-k for 3 and 4 year olds. Decreased emphasis on testing in schools. Attracting and keeping the best teachers, and encouraging diversity in that work force.
5. Do you believe that local Boards of Education in MD should have the right to terminate their Superintendents for cause?
Yes. I have co-sponsored and testified for that bill in the last the last two years in the legislature. The blue ribbon commission created in my committee (Ways and Means) will take that issue and other issues related to superintendent employment under consideration. I believe they will, among other things, recommend the right of local boards to terminate and I will help enact legislation to make that law

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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, I fully support this before. Reducing the size of the electorate that candidates must reach will allow for better familiarity for voters. Council districts will work quite well here.

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

Absolutely. Local control is a must here. The governor has, I believe, overstepped his boundaries with the executive order to limit start and end dates. It was a poorly considered publicity action and it has already caused problems statewide. We have already moved to enact emergency legislation to begin to fix the problems it has caused this school year. I will introduce legislation in 2019 to go further in reestablishing local control.

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. I have supported/co-sponsored such legislation in past session and would do so again

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?

Yes. We need to move deliberately as we have seen. The recommendations of the county executive's commission were unpopular and slowed the process down. I believe the county council should have the ability to regulate, but I believe the more eyes on this the better. There should still be input from the state delegation.

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

I oppose the Potomac pipeline. There is no benefit for Maryland, only danger to its environment.

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?

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I co-sponsored the attempted legislation to ban styrofoam in past sessions. I would do so again. I also have supported a ban on plastic grocery bags. A fee, in lieu of a ban has proven effective in other states and in DC and I would support that as well

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

We need to make sure that guns are safely owned. As I drive a car, I have a reasonable expectation of safety in that other drivers are trained in safe use and vetted for their ability to drive. I expect the same for fire arms. We have moved in that direction with the abolishment of the review board that had the power to overturn state police decisions allowing or disallowing some individuals to conceal carry. This board routinely reversed rulings, with no real expertise. We also passed red flag laws to keep guns out of the hands to those who may be dangerous with them.

We passed an omnibus bill on school safety (SB1265) in my committee (Ways and Means) that dealt with safety evaluations, specific curriculum for SROs (including understand implicit and cultural bias), money for school safety improvement, and a requirement for schools to have a mental health coordinator. This is a step toward safer schools and we will continue to evaluate.

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 have supported all justice reform, environmental protection, gun safety, job equity, job creation, tax reduction, women's rights, LGBT rights, and education funding bills. I have voted against cooperate tax handouts on several occasions.

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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Starting from the bottom, I believe fully in a woman's right to choose. I voted for the bill to enable rape survivors to petition for sole parental rights of a child conceived by rape. I was lead sponsor on a bill to require training for truckers in recognizing and reporting human trafficking in obtaining their commercial driver's license. I believe we should go further with training of hotel workers and other places of business that might see victims. I supported the bill to disarm households where there was domestic violence. I supported and co-sponsored legislation to disallow prospective employers from asking about previous work pay scales or to try to obtain such information, as this promulgates the unequal pay for women and for minorities. I fully support family leave measures.

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

Both public accessibility and public transportation are the key here. We need to increase mobility on both levels so we need to increase availability. We also need to find more job opportunities for those with disabilities.

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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?

At least one year, as is currently the case. This was recently increased for good reason. If we see problems still, then we should move to increase it more.

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

As a member of the legislature, I have testified on all my legislation as well as in support of others. I have taken positions on all of the issues described above and testified in committee on many. I have spoken out on the house floor in support of education funding, fair work disciplinary practices, reducing school testing, school construction funding, and school breakfast and lunch programs, just to name a few.

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