



## 2026 County Council Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate First Name:

Candidate Last Name:

District:

Campaign Email Address:

Phone Number (for use on day of interview):

*I confirm that the responses provided here are my official positions in seeking state office and I understand that MCEA reserves the right to share my responses with members and interested parties.*

Candidate Signature:

Candidate Signature:

Date:

Candidates: In order to be considered for a recommendation, you must indicate your response to each of the questions. **Clarifications, explanations, and other information may be attached, but please be certain to indicate clearly the question(s) to which you refer.** Please return your completed and signed questionnaire to MCEA.

1. Please provide your general and specific thoughts on how the county can address the unmet needs facing our schools. Detail how you would prioritize aid for education in your budget deliberations.
2. During the implementation of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, each county will need to provide money to cover their local share for the Blueprint. What is your plan to meet your county's required local share?
3. There is considerable room for improvement in addressing educator recruitment and retention. Class sizes have increased because of cost-cutting measures and retirements. How will you address critical concerns with educator recruitment and retention?
4. Do you support or oppose employees' rights to bargain collectively?

\_\_\_\_\_ Support \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose

Additional Comments:

5. Safe and affordable housing is necessary for all students to be able to succeed in school. What is your position on affordable housing and how it relates to education?
6. To encourage critical thinking within our classrooms, we believe educators should have professional autonomy on how to implement curriculum to meet the needs of our students. How would you use your platform as a member of the County Council to support this?

7. How will you support diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students throughout the county? What specific policies do you support whose goals are focused on providing equitable access, opportunities, resources, and supports?
8. How will you use your position to protect Montgomery County educators, students, and residents in the face of threats from the federal government and ICE, and given the recent rollback of rights for immigrants, the LGBTQIA community, and other marginalized communities?
9. How do you see yourself, as a council member, addressing the needs of Montgomery County's growing student population living at or below the poverty line?
10. How will you support and expand community schools?
11. Are you in favor of contracting out public school services (i.e. Speech Language Services, School Psychologist services, Cafeteria Managers, School Bus Drivers)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Support \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose

Additional Comments:

12. The Apple Ballot has been successful due to strong brand recognition and the trust the community has in educators to know what our schools and communities need. The strength of the Apple Ballot is diminished when candidates and elected officials on the Apple Ballot endorse non-Apple Ballot candidates. Recognizing the importance of educator voice, especially in education-specific elections, will you refrain from endorsing non-Apple Ballot Board of Education candidates?
13. During the budget presentation, Dr. Taylor referenced a 2024 infrastructure task force report stating that there is a \$385.5 million capital investment backlog of repairs needed to the HVAC systems alone. Additionally, the MCEA/MCPS Collective Bargaining Agreement states “all future classrooms and gymnasiums shall be air-conditioned and all existing non-air-conditioned classrooms and gymnasiums shall be air-conditioned as soon as funds permit.” What steps will you take to secure this needed funding?
14. Please share an overview of your campaign, including your key endorsements, fundraising, and campaign plan and why you believe you will be a competitive candidate.
15. What are the top three things you would like to accomplish in the next four years if you are elected?
16. What is your view of the current local tax structure? What, if any, changes would you advocate?

17. What is your understanding of the Council's relationship with MCPS? Do you find it effective? In what ways do you think it should change?

Space for additional comments (Please reference question number):