

African Americans in Howard County

Howard County, MD

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Special Note from Rev. Dr. Robert A. F. Turner, President African American Coalition of Howard County, to All Political Candidates Seeking to Serve the Howard County, Maryland Community

Approximately 230 candidates filed to represent Howard County, Maryland at all levels – county, state and federal. Although the African Americans in Howard County (AAIHC) could not endorse all candidates, we were, nevertheless, able to endorse 60 candidates. Moreover, AAIHC is pleased that we were able to share all 230 names with the public during the past several months. As I said from the pulpit on Sunday, “I am unable to endorse candidates and stay within the law, but I can ask we pray for them.” We thank the candidates and wish everyone good luck.

African Americans in Howard County (AAIHC) Releases 2018 Primary Endorsement List

Howard County, MD (May 15, 2018) – African Americans in Howard County (AAIHC), an organization that endorses political candidates for leadership positions and expand the public policy debate to include racial and economic equality, released their endorsement list for the 2018 Primary Election on June 26, 2018. The list endorses Democratic and Republican candidates and is intended to be used as a guide for Howard Countians as they make their selections for the primary election. The list is available at: <https://www.afamcoalition.org/aaihc-endorsements-2018-primary>.

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AAIHC is the “sister” organization to the African American Coalition of Howard County (AACHC). AACHC focuses on social and political awareness of minority communities with special emphasis on research and policy advancement. The endorsements are based on the participation of the candidates (Democratic and Republican) at the AACHC Political Forum on April 7, 2018 and subsequent discussions with the candidates. Due to lack of participation by some Republican candidates, were unable to recommend a Republican candidate for all offices.

Click on the candidate category to view the endorsements

[Governor](#)

[Comptroller](#)

[Maryland Attorney General](#)

[U.S. Senator](#)

[Congressional Representative \(District 2\)](#)

[Congressional Representative \(District 3\)](#)

[Congressional Representative \(District 7\)](#)

[Maryland State Senator \(District 9\)](#)

[Maryland State Senator \(District 12\)](#)

[Maryland State Senator \(District 13\)](#)

[Maryland House of Delegates \(District 09A\)](#)

[Maryland House of Delegates \(District 09B\)](#)

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Howard County Executive

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 1)

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 2)

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 3)

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 4)

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 5)

State's Attorney

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Register of Wills

Judge of Orphans Court

Sheriff

Democratic Central Committee (Female 8)

Democratic Central Committee (Male 9)

Republican Central Committee

Board of Education (Non-partisan)

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Governor

1. Democrat for Governor – ***Jealous, Ben***

As a civil rights leader, community organizer and businessman, Ben has exhibited the courage and experience needed to move our state forward. At age 35, Ben was named the youngest ever National President and CEO of the NAACP. During the depths of a national recession, Ben guided the NAACP through an unprecedented era of growth, nearly doubling the organization’s revenue in just five years. Online activists grew from 175,000 to more than 600,000 while donors increased from 16,000 individuals per year to more than 120,000. The NAACP’s membership increased three years consecutively for the first time in 20 years under.

As to leadership, Ben is a Rhodes Scholar, and is the only candidate to propose detailed plans for criminal justice reform, K-12 education, ending mass incarceration and student debt and stopping police killings of unarmed civilians. In 2013, he was named Marylander of the Year, in part because of his successful efforts to steer passage of ending the death penalty in our state. Moreover, despite the over drawn perception that Howard County is wealthy, the county is in need of crucial breakthroughs, among which includes “closing the education achievement gap and affordable housing.”

It is Ben’s ability to “engage” and “inspire” on the latter and others that makes this endorsement profitable and momentous for Howard County Maryland.

2. Republican for Governor – ***Hogan, Larry***

Governor Larry Hogan failed to participate in AACHC Political Forum. Had he chosen to attend, the AACHC Community would have wanted to know more about his “long-term fiscal responsibility” for running the state government given recent tax cuts in Washington, DC. Additionally, what does he perceive as the most effective method of improving and/or boosting long standing weakness in education, especially as education applies to Black families.

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In healthcare, we expect the opioids crisis “to be with us for some time,” and we understand mental health to be one of the main culprits of mass shooting. AACHC is interested in learning Governor Hogan’s continued approach for addressing these issues. According to Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, he argues that “managing for a more distant future is the somewhat counterintuitive key to success in a light-speed digital economy.” AACHC would have wanted to hear from Governor Hogan on this issue given the concern of the Howard County NAACP’s, as described in the press, “significant job losses as workplace technology deepens its roots going forward.”

Comptroller

1. Democrat – ***No endorsement***
2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Maryland Attorney General

1. Democrat – ***Frosh, Brian E.***

Brian E. Frosh is perhaps one of the smartest and brightest Attorney General of Maryland of all times. No other Attorney General has surpassed his commitment to consumer protection-and equality. Moreover, Attorney General Frost shows considerable sincerity in working with the coalition representing Maryland's historically black public colleges and universities discussing settlement with the state, which it accused in a 2006 lawsuit of discriminatory practices and multiple civil rights violations. Most Marylanders consider him more than properly focused in large part due to his experience, background, and hard work.

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U.S. Senator

1. Democrat – ***Cardin, Ben***

Although U.S. Senator Ben Cardin was unable to attend the AACHC Political Forum, he was represented by an individual whom we affectionally call "Rev." Senator Cardin, of course, is the best you are going to find when it comes to leadership on Medicare, Medicaid, and health-care. And it would be hard to argue that he is not an expert on the latter. However, had the Senator attended the Political Forum, the AACHC community would have been interested in his response to a recent Washington Post article: *"Even among Harvard MBAs, few black women never reach corporate America's top rungs."* Recognizing that African American women in Alabama played an active role in defeating Republican Roy Moore, we are interested in politician's commitment to the economic and professional opportunities for African-Americans.

Congressional Representative (District 2)

1. Democrat – ***Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch***

Most never think about it, but solar panels assist in keeping the Chesapeake Bay clean and addressing other environmental issues. And this means job opportunities for Maryland. U.S. Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger is a strong advocate for Howard County who demands accountability from the Trump Administration. Rep. Ruppersberger has shared his thoughts on the Trump Administration: "The President of the United States, leader of the free world, needs to do better than this. President Trump's administration is in shambles— but what's worse, the President is not attempting to fix it. He still skirts responsibility and refuses to admit failure. He won't even attempt to be more transparent."¹ Rep. Ruppersberger certainly has the character and the "gusto" essential to the success of America and Howard County.

¹ <https://www.dutchforcongress.com/blog/2017/demand-accountability-trump-administration>

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2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Congressional Representative (District 3)

1. Democrat – ***Sarbanes, John***

U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes chairs the Democracy Reform Task Force and serves on the Energy and Commerce and the Oversight and Government Reform Committees. He fights for accountability and transparency in government. Rep. Sarbanes, according to his website, continues to ensure access to affordable health care, preserve the Chesapeake Bay, and protect our planet from the dangerous threat of climate change. He is also known for his opposition to “big money” in politics, which is not only a threat to democracy but also a contributing factor to inequality. He continues to be a crucial part of improving the quality of life for struggling families in Howard County.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Congressional Representative (District 7)

1. Democrat – ***Cummings, Elijah***

Congressman Elijah Cummings was sick and unable to represent himself at the AACHC Political Forum. Many of his strengths include: being a man of integrity and commitment; superb communicator with the ability to inspire others; sharing compassion at all times; impressive decision-making capabilities; and creativity and innovation unrivaled by many. His availability to his constituents is unmatched.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

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Maryland State Senator (District 9)

1. Democrat – ***Hester, Katie Fry***
2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Maryland State Senator (District 12)

1. Democrat – ***Lam, Clarence***

Colleagues in the Maryland State General Assembly have described Maryland State Delegate Clarence Lam as being the hardest working representative in the Assembly. A physician with a very strong legislative agenda, he thoroughly understands the importance of Medicaid, Medicare and low-and moderate-income housing in making Howard County successful. He demonstrates tremendous confidence in executing his job. Moreover, he seems strengthened not only by his own confidence, but the confidence others have in him.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Maryland State Senator (District 13)

1. Democrat – ***Guzzone, Guy***

An early Howard County supporter of Obama in Obama initial bid for president eight years ago, Maryland State Senator Guy Guzzone enjoys considerable influence in the Maryland General Assembly. He uses that influence, in a host of regards, on the behalf of Howard County citizens— irrespective of race.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

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Maryland House of Delegates (District 09A)

1. Democrat – ***Ziegler, Natalie***

Maryland State Delegate Natalie Ziegler’s strong advocacy of reducing money in politics will be a big booster to leveling inequality— speaking on the poor’s inability to make large political contributions and influence the process.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Maryland House of Delegates (District 09B)

1. Democrat – ***Watson, Courtney***

Very difficult to separate Courtney Watson and her family’s contributions to Howard County. Her father was a member of the Howard County School Board and served as County Executive for Howard County. But make no mistake, Courtney has a more than commendable track record in Howard County. She fought almost daily for educational funding while serving on the Howard County School Board and continued in her role on the Howard County Council. Courtney understood the intricacies of funding the county through land planning and housing, especially low- and moderate-income housing. Noting that this type of housing is one of the most crucial issue facing Howard Countians. Courtney may be quiet at times but trust your instincts... she really cares!

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Maryland House of Delegates (District 12)

1. Democrat – ***Hill, Terri***

Maryland State Delegate Terri Hill, perhaps one of the most “foremost” physicians from Harvard University, is a strong debater on the issues because it is essential to public life. Yet she’s down to earth with a special ability to understand and engage others about the

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challenges in quality healthcare and health disparities. Delegate Hill legislative agenda spans healthcare, economics and affordable housing. Her contributions, knowledge and impact in healthcare legislation makes her one of the most desirable members of the Maryland General Assembly.

Democrat – ***Ebersole, Eric***

What more can one say about Maryland State Delegate Eric Ebersole! He is forever excited by education since he taught at Wilde Lake High School in Howard County's. Additionally, Delegate Ebersole has a broad understanding of Howard County's demographic challenges.

Democrat – ***Feldmark, Jessica***

How can such a young person amass such experience and talent. Jessica Feldmark has a strong record on securing funding for education, and a very commendable record on protecting the Chesapeake Bay (and so does her husband). Many would agree that Jessica was one of the early "brain-child" for the Healthy Howard Initiative. She serve(d) as: the former Chief of Staff to County Executive Ken Ulman, a Howard County Council Administrator, NARAL Pro Choice Maryland Board Member, Wilde Lake Village Board Member, AmeriCorp Member at Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service and more. We simply cannot have Jessica sitting on the bench. She needs to be in Annapolis!

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

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Maryland House of Delegates (District 13)

1. Democrat – ***Atterbeary, Vanessa***

Maryland State Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary is tough as they come! She is a strong advocate for Howard County and Maryland-at-large. Why else would the Washington Post, when she lived and ran as a freshman for a similar position in Montgomery County, endorse her over incumbents. Delegate Atterbeary continues to create a strong legacy through her legislative actions.

Democrat – ***Pendergrass, Shane***

Maryland State Delegate Shane Pendergrass is the embodiment of Howard County! And no one else has amassed or knows more about healthcare system than her. She constantly introduced new concepts, ideas and approaches to improve the system. All of this is not only a relief to Howard County, but a special relief for struggling families.

Democrat – ***Terrasa, Jen***

Though new, Howard County Councilwoman Jen Terrasa serves with an almost unheard of understanding of land planning and the development of low-income housing in Howard County. Councilwoman Terrasa has strong legislative experience in the county. Very little of this can be said without giving credit to the fighting— and never give up— spirit of her mother.

Howard County Executive

1. Democrat – ***Ball, Calvin***
2. Republican – ***Kittleman, Allan H.***

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Though both candidates are respectfully the most qualified for the position of Howard County Executive for their respective political parties, each lack considerable vibrancy in supporting low- and moderate- income housing. Quoting a well-informed former elected Howard County official: “Though both Ball and Kittleman have access to the bully pulpit, neither seems willing to take the conspicuous position that provides an opportunity to speak out and be listened to on affordable housing.” Thus, leaving a situation of undercutting the economic strength of Howard County. In contrast, their predecessor supported two highly desirable low- and moderate-income developments for the County— Monarch Mills and Burgess Mills Station (both with amenities open to the public). Both candidates will probably prevail through the Primary. Thus, AAIHC and Rev. Turner has requested convening a meeting with the two to discuss the lack of affordable housing in the almost \$4 billion downtown development, prior to 1,000 units being available at market rate for renters.

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 1)

1. Democrat – ***Weinstein, Jon***

County hearings can become very heated at times, but Howard County Councilman Jon Weinstein’s ability to maintain composure and his willingness to listen places him among the great leaders of the Howard County Council.

2. Republican – ***Kathuria, Raj***

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 2)

1. Democrat – ***Jones, Opel***

There is no doubt to Opel Jones knowledge and experience preparing him for this role— including his presidency of the Howard County Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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He has a habit of presenting his case and then stepping back to listen and appreciate other viewpoints. And of this is done with a smile! Opel majored in mathematics (currently pursuing his Ph.D.) and taught at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. It will not take much for Opel to create a path of success with the Howard County Council.

2. Republican – ***Liao, John***

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 3)

1. Democrat – ***Jennings, Greg***

The Democrats have an excellent selection for Council District 3— Greg Jennings! He is currently on the Democratic Central Committee and previously clerked for Former Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of Court of Appeals. Greg’s website says it all: “From volunteering in the Clinton-Gore White House to serving as a prosecutor in Baltimore City, Greg Jennings has always believed in putting people first. As your Councilman, he will fight for transparency in government, affordable child care, and development that works for all.”

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 4)

1. Democrat – ***Jung, Deb***

We are will not find a better person than Jeb Jung to represent Council District 4. She has it all, including the strength to the serve on the Howard County Council. An attorney who is experienced in housing law, especially affordable housing, Deb is committed to growing Howard County the right way. You’ve already probably ran into her because she’s a constant door knocker ready to engage with Howard Countians. Don’t leave Deb on the bench!

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2. Republican – ***Kim, Lisa***

Howard County Council (Councilmanic District 5)

1. Democrat – ***No endorsement***

Special Note: China Williams is looking to control growth— the Western Howard County way. This approach leans toward all low- and moderate-income housing (especially for teachers, police, and fire) being built in Columbia. With wages not keeping pace with housing costs, China’s approach threatens the well-being of all Howard County citizens.

2. Republican – ***Walsh, Jim***

State's Attorney

1. Democrat – ***Gibson, Rich***

Rich Gibson is a highly experienced and knowledgeable Assistant State’s Attorney (Baltimore City) that always greets you with a smile. And because of that smile, most want to call him a “kid.” He has a great family that is active in the community. Howard Countians expect Rich to incarcerate those up that have broken the law, but he’ll tell you that it is more than just “locking people up”. Prosecuting involves families, he says, and we must understand the larger family and societal impact.

2. Republican – ***Oldham, Kim Yan***

Howard County prosecutor Kim Yan Oldham is good addition to the Republican ticket. She currently works in the State’s Attorney’s Office, so she is very familiar with the issues facing the County.

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Clerk of the Circuit Court

1. Democrat – ***Robey, Wayne A.***

Wayne Robey manages his office in a commendable way and has done so over the past four years. AACHC will be working with Wayne, and other Howard Government officials, to ensure that race and demographics are appropriately represented in such offices.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Register of Wills

1. Democrat – ***Macfarlane, Byron***

Perhaps an easy endorsement because most Howard Countians seem convince that Byron belong to us! He's sincere, a hard worker, and one who has served us well during his first term as Register of Wills and he should be reelected.

2. Republican – ***No endorsement***

Judge of Orphans Court

1. Democrat – ***Brown, Ajile***

Democrat – ***Dodd, Anne L.***

Democrat – ***Turner, Leslie Smith***

Overall, a good selection of Democratic candidates with a lot of experience in Howard County and Orphans Court's issues.

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Sheriff

1. Democrat – ***Harris, Marcus***

With a genial smile, Marcus Harris is the statue of a sheriff that any county or jurisdiction would like to have. With strong confidence and ability to do the job, a retired police officer from the Baltimore County Police Department, Marcus will be ready on day 1. He is very popular among the other candidates running for office— irrespective of their position.

2. Republican – ***McMahon, Bill***

(Bill is a past Police Chief of Howard County and almost always performed his duties in a very professional manner. This includes a time in which Howard County was suffering from problems with its former Sheriff. The Republican Party could not have chosen a better person to represent them in the 2018 Maryland Primary for Howard County Sheriff.)

Please make an effort to vote for the candidates running for the Central Committees. These individuals facilitate the election of their political candidates and fill vacancies in certain offices due to the death or resignation of elected officials. Additionally, they recommend members for appointment by the Governor.

Democratic Central Committee (Female 8)

Altamirano, Alicia

Arthurs, Maureen, Evans

Beale, Mae A.

Mae believes in strong vetting in choosing leaders, especially in politics. Absence of the latter is what we're suffering today in Washington, D.C. Proper screening also increases commitment to accountability in government and promotes an atmosphere of openness. Exactly what America needs most today!

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Brown-Hill, Ethel

Extremely experienced and considered the “essence” of the Howard County!

Cochran, Mary Catherine

Dodson-Reed, Candace

Candace Dodson-Reed is an influential leader whose opinions are often sought out by new and experienced politicians.

Hira, Safa

Jones, Jennifer

Jennifer Jones is a leader, attended Wilde Lake High School, who has a pragmatic approach and considerable insight into Howard County’s political needs.

Democratic Central Committee (Male 10)

Adams, Bill

Bailey, Najee

Berkowitz, Scott

Grabowski, Dave

Eldridge, Jeremy

Ford, Bob

Bob Ford, more than many during these moments in time, understands and appreciates the importance broad visions. AACHC has known Bob for many years, and he is always passionate about diversity. He works hard for Democratic candidates, and his ideals are an asset on the Howard County Democratic Central Committee. For these reasons, we strongly support Bob.

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Rizvi, Shahan

Smith, Herbie

Spann, Peter

Saunders, Lewis

Republican Central Committee

No endorsements

Unable to get committee participation, especially their stance on key issues.

Board of Education (Non-partisan)

1. ***Glascock, Bob***
2. ***Mackey, Danny***
3. ***Pandey, Anita***
4. ***Taj, Sabina***

African Americans in Howard County's (AAIHC) primary purpose is to endorse political candidates for leadership positions and expand the public policy debate to include racial and economic equality. The views are progressive with an arc toward improving the system for democracy, freedom and opportunity for all. AAIHC is a sister organization of the African American Coalition of Howard County (AACHC).

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As a point of clarification, AACHC sponsors political forums and other community events, but AAIHC officially endorses candidates for political office.

Special Notes

1. Complete contact information for all candidates, except Howard County candidates which are listed below.

https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2018/primary_candidates/gen_cand_lists_2018_1_ALL.html

2. Complete contact information for all Howard County candidates:

https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2018/primary_candidates/gen_cand_lists_2018_1_by_county_14.html