



VOTERS' GUIDE, Primary Election, MARYLAND

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES **SURVEY RESULTS**

Produced and Published by the Maryland Coalition Against Pornography

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This questionnaire contains the results from MCAP's survey of Maryland candidates for Board of Education and is accessible and shareable online via mcap1.com/data/uploaded/downloads/2024-survey-results.pdf **Please do share!**

The Maryland Coalition Against Pornography is a volunteer-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Focused on the Nation's Capital Region since **1986**, we work to protect children, families and communities from the devastating effects of pornography by:

- Educating the public
- Encouraging enforcement of federal and local obscenity and child pornography laws
- Taking appropriate action against businesses that deal in pornographic materials
- Supporting businesses that do not distribute pornographic materials
- Supporting federal and state legislation to control obscenity and child pornography
- Providing help for people struggling with addiction to pornography
- Protecting minors against exposure to pornography

Candidates for Board of Education

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Candidate	Crystal M. Bender	Tammy Fraley	Max Green	Gerry LaFemina
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>				<p>Parents have the right to teach whatever they want to their children. Schools have the important role of teaching toward a community. Communities are much more diverse than one's household. I know of no school teaching "pornography." Teaching the ideas that some classmates may have two fathers or two mothers is perfectly appropriate because this isn't pornography but a reality of twenty-first century living. If you define a committed relationship solely by the notion that sex must be happening in the household then talking about any familial relationship would be inherently pornographic.</p> <p>Sex education ought to be age-appropriate, but we also have to be keenly aware that our students engage with classmates and community members of diverse backgrounds, and that no single "gender identity" can be attributed to sexual predators, which is often the case when I hear complaints about "grooming."</p> <p>And since sexual predation happens—often by straight adults—having intelligent, age-appropriate and informed discussions might do more to protect kids and allow them to talk freely with their parents about troubles and concerns they may have. It just might save one of your children.</p>
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>				<p>In general, I'm much more concerned with the type of pornography kids can access readily and easily on the internet, which is often exploitive, violent, without relationship context, and offers no redeeming value. Books accessed in a school library have literary merit and contextual rationales that may highlight the importance of such scenes, which underscores Supreme Court rulings (most notably Roth vs the U.S.) on pornography. Justice Horne in that case noted: "Obscenity arouses lustful thoughts of sex and tends to corrupt and deprave by inciting [people] to anti-social activity or tending to create a clear and present danger that he will be so incited as the result of exposure thereto." By focusing on one depiction in a graphic novel that probably has over 500 visual depictions, suggests you're removing the context from this material in order to make it obscene, when in the context of the graphic novel, the opposite is true.</p> <p>More importantly, parents have the opportunity to govern what their own kids read, watch, etc. Libraries—school libraries—are curated spaces that provide a safe space where students can find information and support they may not get elsewhere. The idea that some parents can choose what is available for other students to read is the worst kind of hypocrisy. If your child doesn't want to read a book in the library, then they should choose not to.</p>

3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?				No. I refuse the premise of the question because "sexually explicit material" is not defined (does the Old Testament count with its moments of incest between Lot and his daughters and the Song of Songs?). Much as I suspect the books in a 4-year-old's home bookcase are different than those of fourth grader and those of a 14-year-old, I suspect the books in an elementary school are different than a high school, by failing to make this distinction this policy is already misguided.
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"				Again, this is a question without context. In a high school sex education class or AP Psychology class, such videos/discussions might be a key to understanding sexual deviance and help clarify and alleviate some fears and concerns that a teenager whose body is changing dramatically may need and be too embarrassed to ask. By making the issue videos and not pedagogy, by making the issue images and not context and learning, you fail to engage the importance of student learning and health. As an educator and school board member, my first compass point should be what is educationally sound.

Candidates for Board of Education ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY Councilman District 1				
Candidate	Gloria D. Dent	Ciera M. Harlee	Sarah F. Lacey	Hunter J. Voss
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND

Candidates for Board of Education

CALVERT COUNTY

Commissioner District 1

Commissioner District 2

Candidate	Joseph Marchio	Mike Shisler	Paul Harrison	Antoine White
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>			<p>Parents not only have the right to direct the upbringing of their children but also the responsibility. Many parents believe the same and have chosen to remove their children from public school. So many so that homeschooling now accounts for up to five million (10%) school-aged kids. No one is asking these parents what would be needed to bring them back likely because there is no consequence to the school system for them leaving. I spoke with a child psychiatrist about the age he witnesses children to be capable of understanding sexuality. He offered age 11. In Calvert County Public Schools, those discussions start with Pre-K children at age 4. I will work with my fellow Board members to enact a policy that curtails any discussions about sexuality until 1) a parent has consented, 2) curriculum is fully disclosed and 3) until an age appropriate for understanding. Should parents choose to take on that discussion with their child, that is their choice. Technology makes sharing such information and providing consent as easy as a text message. We live in the Information Age...there should be no secrets.</p>	
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>			<p>There is quite a ruckus about libraries and what literature they should contain. Schools should have age appropriate materials on the shelves at the respective elementary, middle or high school level for as long as libraries are needed. Information children can get through their phone is much more detrimental and graphic than any library book. Parents often are thrilled to give their kids a phone so they can access the world. What some do not understand is that the world now has access to their child and usually without an arbiter to decide what is or is not appropriate. I would like a communication home that reminds parents of that dichotomy.</p>	
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>			<p>I think Carroll County BOE should pass policies reflective of their community and the Calvert County BOE should focus on the wishes of our community. I am unable to proffer whether these communities are the same having never lived there.</p>	
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>			<p>I have not browsed through that site but those are certainly questions that can be Googled.</p>	



**Candidates for Board of Education
Commissioner District 3**

CALVERT COUNTY

Candidate Email	Jeanette L. Flaim jeanette@friendsofjeanetteflaim.com	Melissa Goshorn friendsofmelissagoshorn@gmail.com	Mr. Kelly D. McConkey kdmconkey@aol.com
Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?		Families 100% have the right to direct the upbringing of their children as it pertains to sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics. I'd propose a curriculum transparency policy that allows parents to electronically access all materials (including but not limited to presentations, articles, videos, print outs, books, and exercises) a minimum of two weeks prior to those materials being made available to students.	
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?		No, I do not believe sexually explicit materials should be made available to students without parental consent.	
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?		I haven't read the Carroll County policy however I support prohibiting sexually explicit materials in schools, especially if parents consent is not given.	
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"		I do not support the use of any Amaze.org videos in public schools because one video gives students access to all videos.	

Candidates for Board of Education

CAROLINE COUNTY

Board of Education District 1

District 2

Candidate	No Candidates have Filed for this Office	Stefanie D. Johnson
Email		stefaniedjohnson@gmail.com
Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND

Candidates for Board of Education

CECIL COUNTY

Councilman District 1

District 2

Candidate Email	Sam J. Davis sdavis4803@gmail.com	Dianne Racine Heath diannehth@yahoo.com	Tierney Farlan Davis, Sr. td.ccpsboe2024@gmail.com	Dita Watson aferdita.watson@gmail.com
Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?				Clear and concise policies are a must, presenting Unalienable Parents Rights bestowed upon by the Laws of God, as described in "The Declaration of Independence" and Bill of Rights, 10th Amendment. Along the lines of: "We the people do not consent to any ideology that further promotes and instills gender confusion of any kind, sexuality theory or other misguided "comprehensive sexuality education", or any other way that perversion and compromising the minds of our children can be presented as a form of "education". It is imperative that we leave those types of Life teachings to the parents to decide on. Not the School. The school is not a parent.
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?				I absolutely and unequivocally detest early sexuality of any kind to minors, other than the actual purpose of the reproductive aspects of knowing the biological functions of a man and woman. At appropriate stage of their readiness. Let alone explicit mature content of same sex acts within books like "Gender Queer"! No.
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?				Carroll County is on the right track, however very sorry state of affairs for us to even have to reintroduce, or strongly re-affirm those already existing laws. Yes, I strongly agree.
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"				I believe the Amaze videos are supporting and are a stepping stone to normalizing pedophilia unfortunately. They seem to be operating on the unlawful side of programming. I say that because I have read federal statutes and laws that clearly describe what is "inappropriate material, as in "the Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996, as well as The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), P.L. 106-554 (2000). I have been studying the phenomenon for quite some time now, and believe that it's not just the children that are at risk of mass grooming, but society as well. Those videos are only beneficial to those with immoral intent, who seek to harvest confusion and instability, an unbalanced state of consciousness to a point of no recognition of morality. I hope that is sufficient to appropriately judge my position regarding this very crucial issue of today, which actually is the first and foremost reason for my involvement and campaign for the school board.

**Candidates for Board of Education
Board of Education At Large**

CHARLES COUNTY

Candidate Email	Christopher O. J. Alberts ChrisOJAlberts@gmail.com	Andre R. Griggs, Jr. electandregiggs@gmail.com	Michael "Mike" Lukas votemikelukas@comcast.net	Pascale D. Small smallforccboe@gmail.com	Letonya Smalls electLetonyaSmalls@gmail.com
Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?			Yes. At a minimum, there needs to be an "opt out" policy. In Charles County, we have this. Ideally, there would be an "opt in" policy, so parents are fully aware of course material. This would provide greater transparency and require parental approval BEFORE instruction is given.		
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?			I do not support this.		
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?			I would support similar policies. It's the role of the parent(s) to discuss these topics with their children.		
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"			Again, these are topics that should be discussed in the home.		

**Candidates for Board of Education
Councilman District 1**

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Candidate	Brandy Dawson Cumberland	Michael D. Diaz, Sr.	Lucas A. Thorpe
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND

**Candidates for Board of Education
Councilman District 3**

**DORCHESTER COUNTY
District 5**

Candidate	Christine LaMonica	Susan V. Morgan	Jerome J. Harris	Michael Hartford
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Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>Yes, parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regards to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory and other sensitive topics For this I would promote parent notification of school-based sex education, which to my knowledge Dorchester County public schools has in place. For example, I receive notification when my children will be taught topics as it relates to sex education, and other sensitive topics with the option to "opt out" of the presentation or teachings. This affords parents the ability to address sensitive topics prior the presentation of the materials.</p>			
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>	<p>I am of the opinion that graphic or sexually explicit materials should not be commonplace in school public libraries. It is my understanding that any questionable materials are presented to the school administration and the board for recommendation and approval.</p>			
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>As a board member I would support a policy that prohibits sexually explicit content in a fair and reasonable manner, however I am not familiar with the policy that Carroll County public schools passed so I cannot speak to supporting that specific policy.</p>			
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>	<p>As a board member I would not support these types of videos within our public schools as part of a sex education curriculum. While there is a place for sex education in school at the appropriate age there should be parameters that determine what is appropriate and necessary for the sake of individual and community health and wellness.</p>			

Candidates for Board of Education

FREDERICK COUNTY

Candidate Email	Mahesh Aitha maheshaiathafcps@gmail.com	Jerry N. Alexandratos Jerry4BofEd@gmail.com	Colt Morningstar Black electcoltblack2022@gmail.com	Josh Bokee Josh.Bokee@gmail.com
Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?			Parents do not cede their rights at the school door. They have the utmost right to raise and parent their children in the way they feel is best regarding all topics including sensitive ones such as sex education, gender identity and so forth. Parents should have options to opt their student out of course work they find objectionable.	
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?			I do not support the availability of sexually explicit material in schools, providing applicable policies allows for materials that are historical, cultural, scientific, or academic in nature such as an art book with the sculpture of David or an anatomy book or a book on tribes which in their culture are naked. These kinds of materials is not to glorify sex or genitalia but to inform and educate. We must be sure to have a balance and of course age appropriate is also another big consideration.	
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?			I cannot speak directly on Carroll County's policy as I cannot confirm whether the policy allows for materials that are historical, cultural, scientific, or academic in nature such as an art book with the sculpture of David or an anatomy book or a book on tribes which in their culture are naked. These kinds of materials are not to glorify sex or genitalia but to inform and educate. I would be in favor of policy that restricts sexually explicit materials otherwise that has no directly attributable educational value.	
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"			I don't support or oppose. I believe it depends on the subject matter of the video itself; some videos could be of objectionable reasonable value while others would not be. Whether or not folks like it if someone is not teaching kids factual issues around sex they will find out on their own and the results can have greater consequence such as contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, unplanned pregnancy, and mental health issues. All of which become greater cost to public health. It is of the public interest to ensure students are informed on topics of health concern and if there are some videos of value to that then they would be ok, others which are not pertinent to advancement of public health interest are not. As a pro-life Republican, I'd rather a person know how to use a condom than have an abortion.	

Candidates for Board of Education

FREDERICK COUNTY

Candidate	Jaime Kiersten Brennan	Paul Fairfield	Veronica D. Lowe*
Email	Jaime@jb4boe.com	paulforfrederickboe@gmail.com	Veronica-Lowe@comcast.net
Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND	
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>Absolutely, that is the parents' right. Unfortunately, we have allowed a usurpation of those rights. FCPS has adopted the MSDE Comprehensive Sex Education curriculum, and additionally the MD Legislature is on the verge of mandating that that curriculum for all counties. I hope that doesn't happen. I would support fighting that legislation, should it pass, with every option at our disposal as a Board. I would also support rescinding our voluntary adoption of that curriculum, adopted in 2019 but not fully implemented, and return to our pre-2019 curriculum across applicable grades, while we review and develop an alternative curriculum designed around facts, science and age appropriateness. While we are fighting those battles and rewriting our curriculum though, the most important policy change we can implement is returning to an affirmative OPT-IN policy for any sex ed (a.k.a. family life) lessons. This will make sure parents are actually giving consent, and most importantly have the right to withdraw their child. We should also require a formal notice period of at least a month with weekly reminders of the upcoming lessons, so parents are well informed of the timing. This allows families prepare for and discuss these topics at home from their worldview either in place of the lessons, or as a supplement. Additionally, I would support policies that exclude these topics in formal classroom instruction outside of the family life session. Books, lessons or anything teacher generated should not include any of these topics unless it is the approved family life curriculum. Also, no family life lessons should begin at all until fourth grade. They should be age appropriate and sex segregated. No kindergarten lessons on different types of families, no first grade lessons on how kids may enjoy dressing as the opposite gender. No hypotheticals or role play scenarios in mixed sex classes in middle school. Additionally, the family life lessons should be formally scripted with no deviation allowed from the approved material. Parents who allow their children to participate should know exactly what they will be taught. In the past supplementary materials have been included which were not shown to parents, that will be eliminated.</p>		<p>As a parent and grandparent, I believe that parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children. There are some subjects that we might not be equipped to teach, and I believe that are best taught by educators. There are some sensitive topics that parents have the right to teach their children. Before I would set any policy, I would want to convene a sub-committee to review. The committee would be comprised of a diverse group of people to discuss what is appropriate. Then as stated above, creating an Ad Hoc committee, consisting of parents, students, members of the health community, religious leaders, school staff, and board members should come together to focus on community standards.</p>
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>	<p>No, I am opposed to sexually explicit materials being made available in public school libraries. Our public school libraries should be primarily ordered towards supporting the specific learning objectives and topics studied in the classrooms. They should be age appropriate for all ages of students who may have access to them.</p>		<p>The example you used and the content around the materials could cause confusion for children. My fellow board members and I would have to decide if we would convene an Ad hoc committee in an effort to give the community a voice. We would create a rubric and build a policy around community standards.</p>

<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I completely support the Carroll County policy and would love for a similar policy to be adopted in our system. I think their policy struck the right balance between the role of the school library, the interests of the students, and the needs of the students. We want interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable materials on our library shelves. But that shouldn't be the place where our kids can come across sexually explicit material when they are not even old enough to see an R rated movie.</p>		<p>I support making decisions around giving the community an opportunity to voice their concerns to develop a policy that is representative of the community's input. Personally, as it relates to having literature accessible to children, as you are aware there are millions of books that may be deemed appropriate or inappropriate. I find it a better strategy to create a rubric to address/measure our agreed upon community standards for our children.</p>
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>	<p>Absolutely not. Amaze is not an organization that any reputable school system should have an association with. It is an advocacy organization, not an educational organization. Their materials are completely inappropriate.</p>		<p>Parents have the right to decide if, and when their children are exposed to these topics. I do believe that parents are the first teachers. My goal once again would be to convene an ad hoc committee that would consist of a diverse group of people from both the community and school personnel to collaborate.</p>

* Additional comments from Veronica Lowe: Thank you for your interest in my view of parental discretion and public education. As a tax paying candidate who believes in promoting education for the greater good of society, I believe our role as community members is to educate and when necessary, fill in the void for parents to create a well-informed citizenry. Therefore, many of your important questions should be addressed by a committee of diverse representation of our community. Creating an Ad Hoc committee, consisting of parents, students, members of the health community, religious leaders, school staff, and board members should come together to focus on community standards.

Albeit my belief in parental choice, voice and personal teaching, there are some who may not be equipped to have an appropriate discussion. Many of these conversations should and could be conducted in the home as opposed to in a school curriculum. To that end, there are times when qualified, certified staff members should lead and teach these subjects.

Candidates for Board of Education

FREDERICK COUNTY

Candidate	Tabitha McLoughlin	Janie Monier	Cecelia Moore Reidler	Rayna Remondini
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Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>According to the Supreme Court "We believe in protecting children from those who would destroy their innocence and exploit them for their own purposes. On the whole, parents are the best protectors of children and have the natural right and duty for the care, custody, and control for their children. Children, in the main, are naturally incapable of exercising self-government until reaching the age of majority." Also stated on the Supreme Court website "This Court also has determined that the government shall not interfere with this right unless and until a parent is proven unfit." In my opinion, there are no policies that are required to be implemented if we simply follow the laws in which they are already established.</p>			<p>It is my distinct view that parents <u>should</u> have the right to direct the upbringing of their own children in regard to sex education, gender identity matters, and the likes. While I cannot unilaterally create or implement parental rights policies on my own, I will do what's within my power to vote on the side of parent rights, including voting in favor of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parental involvement * Parental access to student records * Parental notification, and * Parental rights in special education
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>	<p>My suggestion for pornographic materials goes back to the above statement, "... protecting children from those who would destroy their innocence.." These materials should be kept OUT OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS where students under the age of 18 would have access. This is to say that if a parent would give permission to their child to acquire such materials OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, that is their choice. Pornographic sites are limited to 18yrs and older; books with similar descriptive materials should be treated in the same manner.</p>			<p>I do not support making explicit materials available in public school libraries. On my website, https://www.raynaremondini.com/stance/, you can find my stance against legislation such as Policy 443.</p>
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I will support a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials if that is what is required to keep sexually explicit materials out of the hands of children under the age of 18.</p>			<p>I do not support passing policies that put sexually explicit material in the classroom because in my opinion the material has no place, nor value in the educational system. On my website, https://www.raynaremondini.com/stance/, you can find my stance in support of Maryland Bill SB355, which prohibits the display of obscene material to minors in schools.</p>
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>	<p>I do not support Amaze videos in schools.</p>			<p>I am not in favor of subjecting young children to obscene and inappropriate sexual material. I find it highly inappropriate.</p>

Candidates for Board of Education

FREDERICK COUNTY

Candidate Email	Navian Scarlett navianscarlett4frederick@gmail.com	Justin L. Smith justin@parentsforfrederick.org	Angie Vigliotti angie@votevig.com	Chad King Wilson, Sr. chad4boe@gmail.com
Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?	Parents do have the right to direct how their children are taught, however this will be regulated by the curriculum itself, and not the topic. In my experience as a student, I have met classmates in which these topics are taboo to discuss, but necessary for development and growth. Furthermore, I support gender identity theory, presented as an informative topic that will facilitate an environment of understanding, and acceptance of students that have another gender identity. I will put a policy into place that allows parents to voice concerns, and complaints about the curriculum, not the topic in which case it will be reviewed, and determined if content is appropriate. There are many different ways that a subject considered sensitive, can be taught in an educational manner not meant to infringe on personal beliefs.			
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?	I believe there is an age-appropriateness to be considered when over-viewing sexually explicit content. What is considered extremely explicit for Middle Schools, can be permitted for High Schools. This concept of age appropriateness is already enforced in schools, and can be used in regards to determining sexually explicit content. In addition, I will seek to improve our review process for each book, as some of the topics and content of the books are not appropriate to be housed in a school environment. This way, we can determine that we are not removing educational material that may serve to be informative to students, although the content is of a sensitive nature.			
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?	I would be in support of controlling sexually explicit materials in school. However, I would need a clear definition of explicit content. The definition of explicit content cannot be misconstrued, or based solely on personal belief, because schools handle sensitive topics that are important for students to learn. Therefore, we need to be clear that we are not removing anything that could serve an educational purpose despite the sensitive nature of the content.			
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"	With many resources utilized by schools, the source of the content may not be used in every aspect. The same way in which we are regulating explicit books, we can regulate video content appropriateness for the curriculum, and education of students. To that regard, we can also regulate what particular content from a trusted source is appropriate for a classroom setting. This would require implementing similar reviews that we practice with the books we allow in our school libraries.			

**Candidates for Board of Education
(cont.)**

FREDERICK COUNTY

Candidate	Patti Lee Worsley
Email	patti_worsley@yahoo.com
Survey Questions	
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?	YES-Parents have the right to guide all the information that is given to their children. Every respecting adult should always seek the parents' permission before handing children anything outside of what their parents have granted explicit permission for in lessons, sports, etc. Very simple contracts with parents stating that they give permission for training/education in the basic subjects taught in school---such as math, spelling, science, history, etc., as written in the curriculum. The school must give parents advanced notice with an "opt-out" of anything that is considered sensitive, or "off" basic subject material.
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?	NO! I do not support these books being made available in any library. If a parent wants this book made available, then, they can buy it from a bookstore (which hopefully has it "covered" and marked as "Adult Material". No child should be exposed to any type of sexual behavior or deviancy in their schools.
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?	I support prohibiting sexually explicit or even any materials that suggest sex or intimate relationships between children or adults. There are plenty of books that detail fun activities, adventures, mysteries, histories or non-fictional books that can stimulate the child's imagination and creativity, without interiorizing and dehumanizing them. Hopefully all counties will follow Carroll County's lead.
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"	No, I do not support videos that contain any information outside of the realm of the curriculum---and if it has been put into the curriculum, then it must be preceded by an opt out form--as that material is a violation of the Right to Privacy. I believe that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights handed out by the United Nations, and the United States' Bill of Rights should be recognized and adhered to in all schools - public and private---as well as in all communities. Our Rights are God given! No school nor organization can take these Rights away---nor deviate from them. Thank you for the work you are doing in this area--I believe it pertains to my philosophy: "If you wish your rights to be given to you, you must give others their rights, too!"

**Candidates for Board of Education
Board of Education At Large**

GARRETT COUNTY

Candidate	Matthew R. Trezise	Tom Woods
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Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>Thank you for reaching out about what's going on in our schools. I am totally against having explicit content and pornography in the schools. I am totally against the Amaze videos. These things have no business in school. It's a parent's responsibility, not the governments. I am totally against pornography in public and school libraries.</p>	
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>		
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I am glad that there is a county that has prohibited sexually explicit material. I hope others follow suit. I am running my Board of Ed campaign on this verse: Proverbs 14:34. Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. I am totally against the sinful agendas that are being pushed! This sinful material is damaging and sexualizing our children. And it is extremely harmful to the future of our nation. Sin will bring a reproach to our society.</p>	
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>		

**Candidates for Board of Education
Councilmanic District 1**

HOWARD COUNTY

Councilmanic District 2

Candidate	Andre Gao	Pravin Ponnuri	Meg Ricks	Larry Doyle
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND	
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>		<p>I believe that parents always have the best interest of their children at heart. Parents should be involved in decisions regarding what is being taught to their children, particularly in areas such as sex education, gender identity theory, and other similar topics. I believe that some school systems have taken things to extremes in these areas. As a member of the Board of Education, I aim to review policies related to these topics, ensuring that our teaching materials are age-appropriate and that parents have the choice to opt their children out when these subjects are being addressed.</p>		<p>In my view, parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics. Policies should be put in place, not only district wide, but also by each school community. Schools usually service a particular geographical area which may be economically or ethnically defined. We must be sensitive to these differences and if the majority of the parents object, then they should prevail. Educators must be more sensitive to the communities they serve.</p>
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>		<p>Sex education aimed at teaching students about human physiology is suitable for inclusion in the school curriculum, but the use of sexually explicit material that promotes debauchery is not acceptable in educational settings or in any civilized society. I cannot understand why some of the examples given would be considered appropriate for a school.</p>		<p>This is absolutely beyond what most parents would want for their children. This is a case of educators overstepping their bounds and being insensitive to the communities they serve. This type of material has no place in a school.</p>
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>		<p>I do not support the inclusion of sexually explicit material in the school system, and I endorse the recent Carroll County Public School's policy of prohibiting such content. It is important to provide comprehensive sex education without promoting inappropriate behavior.</p>		<p>I sincerely and 100% support this policy and would like to have it adopted by the state. Parents are the final arbiters of what is appropriate in school libraries. Parents represent community standards and they must be respected.</p>
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>		<p>The video examples provided appear to have educational value rather than promoting inappropriate behavior. I am open to the use of such videos in high schools for educational purposes as long as they are factually accurate, educational, and do not promote any inappropriate behavior. However, I do not support their use in elementary schools, and in middle schools, they should be used with parental consent.</p>		<p>I strongly oppose the use of such videos. This shows the extent that certain interests will go to push their agenda which has no place in the schools.</p>

**Candidates for Board of Education
Councilmanic District 2 (cont.)**

**HOWARD COUNTY
Councilmanic District 3 Councilmanic District 4**

Candidate	Antonia Watts	Jolene Mosley	Hiruy Hadgu	Julie Kaplan
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>				<p>The dialogue around parental rights in education, especially on sensitive topics, is ongoing and varies widely across different communities and jurisdictions. Finding a path that respects the roles of parents, the educational system, and the rights of children themselves is a delicate balance and one that often requires ongoing dialogue and adaptation. A balanced approach includes:</p> <p>Opt-out Provisions: Allow parents to opt their children out of certain lessons or topics they find objectionable, while keeping the core curriculum intact for all students.</p> <p>Parental Notification: Schools should be required to inform parents about well-defined areas of the curriculum, such as sex education, giving them a chance to discuss these topics with their children at home or opt-out if they choose.</p> <p>Inclusive Curriculum Development: Involve a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, educators, and experts in fields related to health and child development, in the curriculum development process to ensure that educational content is comprehensive, scientifically accurate, and respectful of diverse views.</p> <p>Educational Workshops for Parents: Offer workshops or resources to help parents understand the curriculum and how to effectively discuss sensitive topics with their children.</p>
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>				<p>It's crucial to strike a balance between safeguarding access to diverse educational resources and adhering to established standards. Policy 8040 serves as a guideline, ensuring that instructional materials meet approved criteria like age-appropriateness and educational relevance, fostering an environment of learning that is both inclusive and respectful of community values. Restricting access should be approached with caution, emphasizing the importance of community input and academic freedom. This approach supports the preparation of students for a diverse and complex world, ensuring they have access to a broad range of viewpoints and information. Encouraging open dialogue among educators, parents, and students about library content can further enhance understanding, ultimately benefiting the educational experience for all students.</p>
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>				<p>My response to question #2 addresses this topic.</p>
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>				<p>My response to question #2 addresses this topic as well.</p>

Candidates for Board of Education

HOWARD COUNTY

Councilmanic District 4 (cont.)

Councilmanic District 5

Candidate	Jen Mallo	Catherine Carter	Andrea Chamblee	Trent Kittleman
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>				<p>Yes, parents have not only the right but the responsibility for the upbringing of their children. When parents believe their children are being exposed to subjects or materials they feel interfere with the family's culture, religion, or moral code, parents ought to have an alternative way to provide their children with an education that does not include such materials.</p> <p>The best option would give parents the right to have their children "opt out" of such teachings. Currently, there are State laws that may prohibit such an opt-out, even if the local Board approved this option. The other alternative that I have long supported is for all parents to have the option to provide for an alternate education for their children if they truly believe it's in the best interest of their child. The families of some 3,000 students took advantage of this option during COVID, removing their children from the HCPSS in favor of a number of different alternatives including home schooling. Unfortunately, lower-income families do not have that option. These alternatives generally cost money, and an option such as homeschooling generally requires at least one parent remain home rather than work.</p> <p>The greatest inequity in our State's public school system today is the Legislature's opposition to allowing lower-income families the opportunity to escape failing schools – or from schools that are contrary to their family's culture, religious, or moral beliefs</p>
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>				<p>I oppose having sexually explicit materials in elementary schools and the more graphic ones in secondary schools. Our Howard County public library does not carry copies of Playboy or Penthouse due to their sexual photos and content. Some of the books parents object to are more sexually explicit than either of those magazines, so why is that appropriate? I support parents' right to protect their children from what they reasonably consider pornography. The Supreme Court noted "obscenity is not determined by a national standard," but rather by community standards that vary from one geographical location to another. In Howard County, there are broad differences among our many communities. Applying a one-size-fits-all approach to decisions involving controversial topics invariably penalizes some to accommodate others. This is why the options I mentioned in my answer to question number one are so important.</p>
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>				<p>The Carroll County policy states "sexually explicit content is defined as unambiguously describing, depicting, showing, or writing about sex or sex acts in a detailed or graphic manner." I'd like to see Howard County propose a policy that we could consider rather than appropriating the policy of another county, to consider the thoughts and opinions of our various communities.</p>
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>				<p>"How many times can a person masturbate in one day? #AskAMAZE," and "I had unprotected sex and I didn't get pregnant. Why? #askAMAZE", and starts with the young lady saying, "Wow, I'm so good at this." The messages being conveyed in just these two short videos has a social context with which many parents would disagree. The message in the first video is that masturbation is perfectly fine, but don't overdo it. While many might agree with this premise, many others would not. This sexual function should be presented without tacitly supporting or opposing it. The second video is more concerning since it conveys the message that having "unprotected sex" is doable by timing your menstrual cycle – with a tag line suggesting the use of protection. I'm unsure exactly how the schools use Amaze.org, which videos are used, or if the students have full-time access to the channel, but I do not believe a topic as sensitive as sex should be presented to children in a way that encourages practices that violate the religious and moral code of many of our Howard County families.</p>

Candidates for Board of Education

KENT COUNTY

<p>Candidate</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Piers Heriz-Smith</p> <p>millingtonresident@gmail.com</p>	<p>Laura McKenzie</p> <p>lkmckz@msn.com</p>	<p>John Queen</p> <p>mr.queen4902@gmail.com</p>	<p>Francoise Sullivan</p> <p>campaign@voteforsullivan.orgm</p>
<p>Survey Questions</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>		<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>		<p>Yes, I firmly believe that parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children regarding sensitive topics. I would always support and defend the policy regarding a parent's right to opt out of instruction and/or interventions that involve sensitive topics.</p>		
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>		<p>No, I do not support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries.</p>		
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>		<p>Yes, I strongly support policies that prohibit sexually explicit materials in public schools and would vote for any policy working towards that end.</p>		
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>		<p>I oppose the use of the videos by Amaze in public schools because their videos present values based content that may contradict with a student's family's values. I encourage educating and supporting parents on how to approach conversations with their children regarding sensitive topics in general. These conversations can be difficult for parents but they are in the best position to have supportive and meaningful discussions with their children.</p>		

**Candidates for Board of Education
Board of Education at Large**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY*

Candidate	Lynne Harris	Sharif Hidayat	Melissa Kim	Jonathan Long	Fitzgerald Mofor	Rita Montoya
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>		<p>Parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics. Parents should be able to Opt-Out of sex education, gender identity theory and other sensitive topics. I would draft legislation that clarifies the Opt-Out option to ensure the school system doesn't overstep its role regarding this issue.</p>			<p>As a member of the board of education, I strongly believe that parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children regarding sensitive topics such as sex education and gender identity. However, I will also advocate for an inclusive curriculum to be implemented in the Health and Family Life curriculum. It is worth noting that this is not a radical idea; in fact, it was the original policy of Montgomery County Public Schools. The Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals also supports this policy. A no-opt policy could be seen as an infringement of religious liberties, and we must be mindful of that when crafting our curriculum.</p>	
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>		<p>Public School Libraries should not have any books that include graphic descriptions of oral sex. I do not support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries.</p>			<p>I am concerned about the centralized power of the Maryland Legislature regarding library reading materials, as mentioned in HB785. I strongly believe that localities should be given the power to govern adequately. I have come across books like "Gender Queer" which are graphic memoirs and use cartoon depictions to appear innocuous and child-friendly. I do not think such books should be available in libraries. I am against the presence of sexually explicit materials in school libraries.</p>	

<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>		<p>I support the decision to ban sexually explicit materials from our district's library system. Children shouldn't be exposed to that kind of material at a young age. There are enough distractions in kids' lives nowadays that are already harmful. They do not need the added distraction of reading sexually explicit materials as well.</p>			<p>I believe that sexually explicit materials should be prohibited in my school district. This is not a partisan issue. Governing bodies of education have a compelling obligation to protect children from explicit materials and I believe that they have a fiduciary responsibility to do so.</p>	
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>		<p>I don't think it is appropriate to have any discussion about masturbating or about watching porn in a school setting without the direct consent of a parent.</p>			<p>The following content was provided by Amaze.org: "Is it normal to watch porn?", "Why are parents so annoying?", "Vasectomy, What is it?", "What is cisgender?", "Does oral sex count?". There is no logical explanation for why these topics should be taught in schools. I want to be clear that I am not a Christofascist, bigot, anti-equity, or anti-LGBTQ. I believe that such subjects should not be introduced in elementary or middle school. Children are already struggling with core subjects, and those should be the priority, not lewd topics.</p>	

Montgomery County provided a similar survey here.

**Candidates for Board of Education
Board of Education District 2**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Candidate Email	Brenda M. Diaz bmdiaz4boe@gmail.com	Ricky Fai Mui Vote.Ricky.F.Mui@outlook.com	Rebecca Smondrowski rsmondrowski@gmail.com	Aby Thioye* info@aby4mcps.com	Natalie Zimmerman Zimmermanforeducation@gmail.com
Survey Questions			DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>Yes, in my view, I believe parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics. As a parent of a current student in Montgomery County Public Schools and former teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools, I am in support of MCAAP's recommendation to refrain from introducing LGBTQ+ materials in elementary school English Language Arts curricula. I will seek to reinstate the opt-out option. If that is not available, I will seek to move the curriculum to the Family Life/Health Ed classes offered for elementary schools. These classes are categorized to maintain the opt-out option as specified by Maryland law.</p>	<p>As a Parent and a Candidate, I whole-heartedly advocate for Parental Rights. a.) Our children and students should not be the battle ground where gender identity theory and other, naturally divisive discussions, take place. At the pre-pubescent age, most children lack the critical thinking and the experience to understand these topics. b.) Parent never relinquished the privilege, authority or their natural right to raise their children according to the customs and values protected by the Constitution and local laws; to be good, productive citizens of the United States. c.) Parents and Guardians should be permitted and encouraged to take part in their children's education. We've seen how happy Parents are during Open Houses or how families which invest time in checking assignments and projects, deliver a better product. d.) More Parents should be teaching their children about sex education or discussing other sensitive topics at home; again, it is imperative that children understand how their parents or customs view these topics. Proposed Policies: The Board of Education determines the curriculum by which MCPS delivers instruction. The Board of Education must ensure that all teachers are certified and qualified to teach the assigned subject matter; and controversial topics should be debated in higher educational institutions. Montgomery County Public Schools does not instruct on any issues that do not satisfy the mandated requirements to graduate each grade level.</p>			
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>	<p>No, I do not support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries. However, I do believe if this is no longer an option for public school parents, that it is necessary to inform and educate the public as to how to restrict their child's access to these materials. Schools must follow these directives. Currently, Governor Wes Moore has before him the Freedom To Read Act, so we will find out more about how to protect families soon.</p>	<p>Absolutely NO to books that graphically depict oral sex or other types of pornographic imagery in any MCPS libraries. a.) This same material would typically be age limited on most adult websites and would not pass Parental Controls on electronic devices. b.) Most adolescent children are squeamish when shown affection, which makes it absurd to think that same child is mature enough to handle adult-only material. c.) Parents and advocates would and have demanded imprisonment for any perpetrator that performed the very same pornographic acts described within these books.</p>			

<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I support Carroll County Public Schools' policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. I believe in the power of local governments to determine for themselves the character of the public education they offer. Limited government, at every level, must be instituted.</p>	<p>I would gladly support any policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials, especially for recreational consumption by school-aged children. a.) Up until a few years ago, all similar adult themed magazines were plastic wrapped and hidden away. b.) The overly sexual material adds no value, it is a contrived representation of sex; where the blessed act is clearly intended for the purpose of reproduction between husband and wife. c.) Over-sexualization of children's books is advancing the moral deterioration of society; this is not an area I want America leading in.</p>			
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>	<p>I oppose the use of videos by Amaze.org to be used in our public schools. These topics are wholly inappropriate to be introduced by teachers and the public school system.</p>	<p>Let's take a look at these topics. It would not surprise anyone that teenage children would be curious about masturbation and sex, as naturally, their bodies are developing into adulthood. That is the very basic part of human anatomy and psychology. a.) Now, instead of asking their families or abiding by the religious or cultural customs that may be present, the child decides to ask a public school teacher for their opinion. MCPS instruction must align with the Curriculum approved by the Board of Education. It adds undue pressure on to the Teacher to customize a response tailored to each child, to be age-appropriate, and aligning with all customs and cultures. b.) The MCPS Teacher's response should be: This is a personal question that should be discussed with your parents. Sexual acts should only be performed by adults recognized via the legal age of 18 years old. Pornography should not be viewed on MCPS property as the acts do not demonstrate the high moral values and respect, we safeguard at MCPS.</p>			

* Aby Thioye provided the following related comments to the League of Women Voters: As an immigrant mom from a traditional society and an educated professional, I know the American dream for many of us means raising children who are academically successful citizens and carry on their family's values and traditions. It is the job of public schools to prepare our children for academic success. But it is the right of parents to direct their children's upbringing. I support the right of parents to opt their children out of instruction that violates their religion or conscience.

Candidates for Board of Education**MONTGOMERY COUNTY****Board of Education District 4**

Candidate	Shebra Evans	Bethany Mandel*	Laura Stewart
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND

* Bethany Mandel has posted the following comments online [here](#):

What are your thoughts about gender inclusive books and lessons in the classrooms?

In August of 2023, I wrote for the Free Press about the protests outside of the Board of Education. They were largely comprised of Muslim and Ethiopian parents who protested mandatory readings in the classroom that went against their religious beliefs. These parents strongly believe, as I do, that it is the job of schools to teach kids how to read and do math, not raise children with a set of values that contradicts those in their own home.

There is also such an intense focus on gender and sexuality while test scores and attendance are at record lows, and crime is skyrocketing. MCPS needs a sharp refocus on what matters, educating kids and setting them up for success!

**Candidates for Board of Education
Board of Education District 1**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY*

District 4

Candidate	Tiffini Andorful*	Donna Barriteau*	Maria Gonzalez-Jackson*	David Murray*	Shayla D. Adams-Stafford*
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Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND	
Candidates from Prince George's County were asked the following related question by the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County: PARENTAL INPUT: How would you address concerns about specific books or instructional materials in the schools?	I recognize the importance of community engagement in addressing concerns about specific books or instructional materials in schools. My approach would prioritize listening to parents to understand concerns and root causes. I would commit to increasing transparency, collaboratively identifying solutions, and prioritizing knowledge of the current state.		Addressing concerns about specific books or instructional materials in schools requires a balanced approach that respects diverse perspectives while upholding educational standards and principles of academic freedom. As a member of the school board, I would implement a transparent and inclusive process to address such concerns effectively. Transparency is paramount throughout this process.		I would emphasize that our school system allows parents to opt out of certain materials based on their beliefs. I also support our school system having inclusive curricular materials that are reflective of our diverse community.

* Please see Prince George's County Board of Education League of Women Voters VOTERS' GUIDE [here](#).

**Candidates for Board of Education
Councilman District 4**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Candidate	Robin Brown*	Kim Carter*	Iyamide House*	Zipporah Miller*
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Survey Questions				
<p>Prince George's County candidates were asked the following question by the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County: PARENTAL INPUT: How would you address concerns about specific books or instructional materials in the schools?</p>	<p>I believe that every parent wants the best for their children, and I commend those who are advocating for their household. As a school board member, I would establish transparent guidelines that define academic freedom and its boundaries. I would also educate the community on policies that align with community expectations and values.</p>	<p>As a PGCPs Board Member I would address these concerns through a thoughtful and thorough process that takes into account the concerns of all stakeholders in a fair, transparent, and inclusive manner, ultimately ensuring that the educational needs of all students are met.</p>	<p>I strongly believe that books or any other materials that represent children in our community should not be banned. If there are any concerns regarding the content, I encourage parents to have an open discussion with teachers and administrators to gain a better understanding of the content. Parents are an invaluable resource and our schools' greatest partners. Therefore, I aim to increase their participation and support in our school system.</p>	<p>Parental engagement is crucial in shaping policy and making decisions. When addressing concerns about books or materials, I prioritize listening. Forums will be convened for open dialogue. As a leader, I value every voice. It's standard practice for me to involve parents in material selection, ensuring they are an equal partner in the selection process.</p>
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>In my view, parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory and other sensitive topics. When it comes to curriculum and enrichment policies, parents should be able to opt-out and there should be an alternative opportunity of classwork that would still enrich the scholars. Parents should also be given the right to read over the curriculum, prior to signature and a roll out.</p>	<p>Parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children. However, concerning sexually explicit and illegal topics, there should be a clear boundary regarding what a child is legally allowed to be exposed to. I would advocate for policies that prohibit the use of sexually explicit materials in our schools, ensuring that our children are provided with appropriate and safe learning environments.</p>		
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>	<p>Absolutely not. This is despicable and does not belong in the school libraries.</p>	<p>As a candidate for the next Prince George's County District 5 Public School Board member I unequivocally do not support sexually explicit materials being made available in public school libraries or any other area of the school grounds.</p>		

<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Absolutely support. Again, the parents should have discretion on educating their children on matters regarding sex. The school can be a resource in the event a parent wants assistance.</p>	<p>As a candidate for the next Prince George's County District 5 Public School Board member, I am in full support of Carroll County's public school policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Our schools are environments where our children come to learn essential subjects that contribute to their success and positive integration into society, such as reading, writing, math, and science. Sexually explicit materials of such are not conducive to this learning environment. It is crucial that our public schools remain safe havens for our children, where they can receive an outstanding universal education, are nurtured, and feel secure.</p>		
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>	<p>1,000% oppose.</p>	<p>As the next Prince George's County, District 5, Public School Board Member I most assuredly oppose the use of such videos by Amaze.org in our public schools. It is vitally important that classrooms contain age appropriate and culturally sensitive materials. The video content raises many concerns as such topics are more suitable for discussion in settings that can provide context, guidance and support, such as counseling services. Our children's eyes and ears need to be protected from all inappropriately negative and sexually explicit content on all levels. If we each do our part our children can grow more healthy and pure. The way they were created.</p>		

* Please see Prince George's County Board of Education League of Women Voters VOTERS' GUIDE [here](#).

**Candidates for Board of Education
Councilman District 7**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Candidate Email	Kenneth Harris* kennyharris2@gmail.com	Henrietta Holiday* hh4pgc@gmail.com	Phelton Moss* cortez.moss@gmail.com
Survey Questions			
<p>Prince George's County candidates were asked the following question by the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County: PARENTAL INPUT: How would you address concerns about specific books or instructional materials in the schools?</p>	<p>By approaching the situation with both empathy and understanding, I would first seek to hear the concern & respect their perspective. This helps to lay the groundwork & effectively build a bridge to the PGCPs administration. By actively listening to concerns, providing alternative options, offering information about the content area, encouraging dialogue, & ultimately respecting the parents' decisions, schools & educators can work collaboratively to meet the educational needs of all students.</p>	<p>I would engage parents or guardians in the counseling and reviewing of books, in order to make an informed and age-appropriate decision on materials. We do not need to overwhelm impressionable minds with materials that do not match the student's maturity level.</p>	<p>Drawing on my expertise in education policy and leadership, I would establish a transparent review process involving stakeholders to address concerns about specific books or instructional materials in schools. Emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion, I'd ensure decisions align with educational standards and community values while promoting critical thinking and open dialogue.</p>
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>		<p>Children are gifts from God, meticulously born or adopted to the parents for them. Sex education, gender identity theory and other sensitive topics alike should remain with the child's parents. Every parent has the right to direct their child's rearing. Our job as educators who teach on such curriculum, are to teach physical anatomy and its factual course of development. When writing policy, it's important that organizations, such as MCAP, and parental perspectives are included. It is my goal, as a board member, to bring parents back into the classrooms and collaborate on Handbook rules that will educate, positively productive young adults into society.</p>	
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>		<p>Thank you for making me aware of such material. As I could have lived my entire life without ever seeing such. Which suggests that said topics aren't needed to achieve adult success in life. Sexually explicit materials have no place in a school system.</p>	

3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?		CCPS made a brave decision. It takes courage to go against popular culture, and trends. Our students have much more information to digest than previous generations. Adding an element of racy content, exposing impressionable souls before maturation, can do more harm in their development, as studies have found. Sexually explicit material have no place in a school system.	
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"		Sexually explicit materials, of any form, have no place in the school system. We need to treat pornography like we do drugs. We are against Marijuana in schools because it's a "gateway" to other addictive, harmful drugs. Opening the door to explicit material, like Amaze.org, during identity development, can confuse; and it neglects some established parental-household upbringings. There is no relevancy for the aforementioned topics to be considered in academia . Part of the Board's job, is to write effective policies that also protect the minds, wills and emotions of students.	

* Please see Prince George's County Board of Education League of Women Voters VOTERS' GUIDE [here](#).

Candidates for Board of Education PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Councilman District 8			
Candidate	Madeline Frazier*	Zakyia Goins-McCants*	Angela Jones*
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Survey Questions			
Prince George's County candidates were asked the following question by the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County: PARENTAL INPUT: How would you address concerns about specific books or instructional materials in the schools?	Listen Intently for understanding. Provide parents the time and space to feel heard. Refer to school policies related to curriculum, instructional materials, and the process for handling concerns and ensure that actions align with guidelines. Advocate for the importance of a well-rounded and inclusive education. Emphasize the need for diverse perspectives in the curriculum while maintaining academic rigor.	I respect parents' responsibility to protect and guide their children. I do not support using that responsibility to obscure facts or make the job of educating students to be citizens more difficult. I am in support of pathways to address curricular issues with educational experts and best practices, and systems for parents to opt out of specific books or instructional materials if the learning objective can be met without that material and doing so won't impede the learning of other students.	I believe parents should have the option to opt out of curriculum materials that conflicts with their beliefs, but schools must have inclusive, and diverse curriculums that supports the entire spectrum of our student population. School Board members don't create the curriculum, but the Superintendent does. Thus, I support PGCPs's efforts to create inclusive curriculums that represent the student population's diversity.Dist.1.

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Candidates for Board of Education**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY****Commissioner****District 2****District 3****District 4****Candidate****Mathew Drayer****Richard "Dick" Smith****Carrie Sutherland****Kendra L. Eichler****Email**

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Survey Questions

DID NOT RESPOND

DID NOT RESPOND

DID NOT RESPOND

DID NOT RESPOND

Candidates for Board of Education
Board of Education at Large

ST MARY'S COUNTY

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Survey Questions		DID NOT RESPOND		
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?	Without a doubt, parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics. My plan, should I be elected, is to institute policy that requires schools to allow parents to preview all sex education curriculum. After previewing, parents will have the right to opt their child/children out of the course. I understand that there are discussions at the legislative level that would seek to deny parents the right to opt their child/children out of this curriculum. I do not and will never support this type of stripping parents' rights.		As a SMC School Board Candidate, I fully subscribe to all your concerns and positions as stated in your questions.	Yes, parents should have rights with what is taught to their children. We should have a parents' bill of rights written up and implemented.
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?	I do not support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries. I don't feel as though material containing explicit sexual content should be provided to children or young adults. I do not see any educational benefit. If anything, providing these materials can introduce children to topics that they have no prior knowledge of and can cause confusion and even interest in things children have no business knowing about. I want kids to be kids for as long as they can.			ALL sexuality needs to be completely out of ALL schools. Zero tolerance.
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?	I support similar policies in my school district. I don't think anyone could provide any evidence to suggest that providing sexually explicit materials to students is beneficial to them in any way.			I would like to review this policy and possibly implement it here in St. Marys County.

4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"

This is disturbing. I oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools. There is no educational value. There are so many other areas that students should be learning that will actually benefit them in life like how to write a resume, or how to balance a checkbook; learning how to formulate a budget; what credit is; the benefits of owning a home vs. renting, etc.

ALL sexuality needs to be out of the education system, with zero tolerance. The only sex that should be taught in school should be about how humans are made.

Candidates for Board of Education

WASHINGTON COUNTY

<p>Candidate Email</p>	<p>Victoria Beachley votebeachley@gmail.com</p>	<p>Pieter Bickford pbickford@gmail.com</p>	<p>Charles A. Burkett servtec2@aol.com</p>	<p>Nancy Lee Evans nancyandeevans@aol.com</p>	<p>Michael P. Keifer michaelkeifer915@gmail.com</p>
<p>Survey Questions</p>		<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>		<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>	<p>Parents have the absolute right to direct the upbringing of their children. I firmly believe you should not be coparenting with the government. At a minimum there should be opt in or out options but ideally these topics are left for parents to guide their kids through when they see fit and in the manner they see fit.</p>		<p>Parents should have the final say in whether their child can participate in any classes involving sex education, gender identity theory, or any other sensitive topics. I strongly support an opt-in notification system for subject matters such as these, where a parent is notified of an upcoming topic and have the right to have their child removed from such programs.</p>		
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>	<p>No and I honestly cannot phantom why some people think it is appropriate.</p>		<p>I do believe a school system should have the right to approve or disapprove of certain material being in the schools there is so much good reading material for children to enjoy reading rather than sexually explicit material.</p>		
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I support prohibiting sexually explicit materials.</p>		<p>I would support this, or at the very least a change in policy. Currently, parents have to know what material is in the library and opt their child out from checking out sexually explicit books. That means they have to know every single explicit book in order to prevent their child from checking a particular book out. On the other hand, sexually explicit books could be moved to another part of the library and a parent would have to opt their child in, in order to enter that part of the library.</p>		
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>	<p>I oppose. Again this is coparenting with the state-allowing the state to reframe normal and acceptable when it's not their place.</p>		<p>NO, this is a parent's responsibility to share this material with their child should they choose. The school system should not be promoting or putting their spin on this material.</p>		

Candidates for Board of Education**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Candidate	Ethan Loewen	Ashley McCusker	Robin Merchant Spickler	Stan Stouffer	Melissa Williams	April Ann Zentmeyer
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND

**Candidates for Board of Education
Commissioner District 2**

**WORCESTER COUNTY
District 3**

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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND
1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?			We must affirm and support parental rights to be the final determiner of appropriate curriculum materials. Parents must be invited and welcomed to review all curriculum materials. If a parent views a curriculum such as family life as not appropriate for their child, then the school system must allow the child to opt-out of the unit of study and provide an appropriate and parent acceptable alternative area of study.	
2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?			We must make sure that all materials in public school libraries are age appropriate and do not contain sexually explicit material. Parents must have on-line access to the school system electronic library card catalog and parents must be able to have a user friendly process to restrict access for their child (children) to read or borrow any library book. Parents must have exclusive authority over which library books their daughter / son can read or borrow.	
3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?			I support local control and the position taken by Carroll County public schools. However, with the recent passage of SB 738, school systems will need to revisit the library book collection and selection process.	
4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"			I oppose the use of any websites, videos, and materials that do not align with the written curriculum. I oppose the use of the website Amaze.org in our public schools.	

**Candidates for Board of Education
Commissioner District 5**

WORCESTER COUNTY

Candidate	John E. Huber, IV	Dorothy Shelton Leslie	Elena McComas
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Survey Questions	DID NOT RESPOND		DID NOT RESPOND
<p>1) In your view, should parents have the right to direct the upbringing of their children with regard to the teaching of sex education, gender identity theory, and other sensitive topics? What policies would you put in place with regard to parental rights?</p>		<p>In my opinion, sex education and sexually explicit discussions have no place in the public schools, and certainly no place in K-3 schools. That is a parent's job. Schools need to stick to traditional subjects such as reading, writing, and math. That is what they have been trained to teach.</p>	
<p>2) Some school systems have approved sexually explicit materials for public school libraries. For example, the book "Gender Queer" shows a graphic depiction of oral sex. Do you support making sexually explicit materials available in public school libraries?</p>		<p>Yes, I would oppose such materials in our schools if parents want their child to read these materials then they can check out the books for their child located in the public library. Our limited school budget needs this money for other instructional materials.</p>	
<p>3) The Carroll County public schools recently passed a policy prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Do you support or oppose similar policies in your school district? Why or why not?</p>		<p>Yes These materials do not belong in public schools. They can check them out in public libraries or purchase them. There are much better ways to spend our precious school dollars. All materials should be age appropriate and subject appropriate.</p>	
<p>4) Do you support or oppose the use of the videos by Amaze.org in our public schools, which include topics such as "How many times can a person masturbate in a day" and "Is it normal to watch porn?"</p>		<p>What possible reason could a primary grade student need to know this kind of thing?</p>	