



Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Tom MYERS

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Education (including institution and degree):
GOUCHER COLLEGE, BACHELOR OF ARTS, 2005

Years residing in Harford County: 27

Ages of children and where they attend school:
I have no children.

1. What prompted you to see election to the school board?

I wanted to give back to the Harford County Public School system after they helped me overcome a severe learning disability and helped me graduate with a Certificate of Merit and helped me graduate with a degree in history from college. Upon the recommendation of friends of mine from both political ideologies, I decided to file my candidacy for the Board of Education.

2. Share some examples of your involvement with the public schools in Harford County or elsewhere.

I was a student in the Harford County Public School from age 5 until I graduated from high school. In addition to focusing on my own studies, I served as a peer math tutor in my junior and senior years in high school. I also served as a math aide during my senior year in high school. I will continue to help Harford County Public School students when I am elected to the Board of Education.

3. What qualifications and/or experience do you have that will help you make a positive contribution to the school board?

I have been an advocate for my fellow county residents and have been looking out for their interests. I fought against the closure of the library in Fallston. I have also been fighting for the restriction of development outside of the development envelope. As a member of the Board of Education, I will continue to help my fellow County residents by making sure the teachers are able to teach the future of Harford County.

4. If elected, what are three priority issues that you will advocate as a school board member?

- 1) I will make sure that the teachers have the resources necessary to teach, including better pay and reinstatement of health benefits.
- 2) I will make sure students get an education that will benefit them in college and in the job market.
- 3) I will help make the Board of Education more accessible to parents who entrust their children to the Harford County Public School system.

5. Based on your knowledge and perceptions, what are the strengths and weaknesses of HCPS? Are there programs, activities or budgetary items that you would add or eliminate?

Based on my conversations with community members and teachers, I perceive that the teachers are committed to educating the youth of Harford County and that they deserve all the respect that is given to any public servant. I believe that the health benefits package shows that there needs to be more communication between the Board of Education and the teachers to make sure that we treat our teachers with the same care and respect that our teachers show the children that parents entrust into HCPS. I would have to look at budget items myself to determine what needs more funding and what needs to be eliminated.

6. Please list three ways parental / community involvement can be utilized effectively in our schools.

I believe that involvement in the schools is as simple as:

- 1) Parents being involved in their child's education by going to PTA meetings, attending parent-teacher conferences and checking their child's homework.
- 2) Students understanding that this is an opportunity to succeed in life that is being given to them and it would be beneficial for them to take advantage of it.
- 3) Board of Education members attending community events and listening to concerns from community members and using those concerns to consistently improve the schools.

7. Please use the space provided below to share any additional information not covered in the previous questions.

My grandfather, Charles F. Barbour, was a member of the Board of Education more than forty years ago. He helped to negotiate wages for teachers so that they would be able to do what they love doing and be taken care of. My mother and my sister are teachers, so I understand that their school day does not end when students go home. Teaching is a more than full-time commitment and taking care of teachers should be more than full-time commitment. On my campaign posters and my campaign website is a "Putting Education First." It is not just a campaign slogan, but it is a promise and a guarantee to the students, teachers and parents of the Harford County Public School system.

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