

Hi- My name is Carol Howard and I will be stepping up into the chair of Legislation previously held by Ray Enrico. I retired 3 years ago after being in the classroom for 40 years mainly at Appeal and Patuxent Elementary. While during my dozen + years on the Calvert Education Association (CEA) Executive Board, I frequently made trips to lobby legislators and marched for key education initiatives in Annapolis so I hope that will give me some experience and insight while sharing topics and events that are of importance to our organization and our county. My apologies to our members who live outside Calvert County. Most of my reports will be for all, however, sometimes it will impact just Calvert County. My reports will also be shorter in length after this report on Election Day!

This part of my report is on the July 19th Primary in preparation for the General Election in November. I will not discuss every race but if you want more specific information you can email me (cah4literacy@yahoo.com) or stop me at our general meeting and I will attempt to answer your questions. All data I present here is as of 8-15-22.

As I believe Ray addresses earlier, Calvert County is considered small (we have 67,000 registered voters). We are often combined with other counties to form state and federal election districts. (To illustrate this point, some of you may know/have taught Rachel Jones who lived in Prince Frederick and attended Calvert Middle School. She had been appointed to serve District 27-B earlier and was running for her seat in July. In the Primary, she won Calvert County but lost to her opponent from PG Co. because the district only has a small portion of our county in that district.) In other MD Legislative Results: Mark Fisher will represent 27-C and Morgan will go against Bates to represent southern Calvert/Saint Mary's in 29-C. *Please note that all races will have the Republican candidate's name listed first.*

Some people feel Primaries are not important but many of our local as well as state and federal races weeded out opponents to bring candidates to the General Election. Here are the candidates that won their primary and will move on to the General Election for some of our local races:

County Commissioner Races- At-Large Seats (vote for 2) - Hance, Ireland, Dides, Montague

County Commissioner District 1- Hart VS Powell

County Commissioner District 2- Cox VS Gray

County Commissioner District 3- Grasso VS Roberts

School Board- At-Large Seats (vote for 2) Note: candidates are NOT by party- Grenis, Khaleesi, McGuire, and Post

General Election information: **Early Voting** will be from **Oct. 27-Nov. 3** from 7AM-8PM at 3 locations in the county: lower level Community Resource Building in Prince Frederick (old library bldg.), Fairview behind the library, and the Southern Community Center. **Mail-in** applications can be requested on-line or go in person to the Board of Elections in the Community Resource Bldg. Deadline depends on how you receive your ballot. Note that at the time of your request you can also sign-up for permanent mail-in ballots. **Tuesday, November 8th** is Election Day from 7AM-8PM at your assigned polling place.

For those of you who are into statistics, 20% of those who voted did Early Voting, 49% voted on Primary Day and 15% were Mail-In. Of actual registered voters only 30% voted in the Primary. The current breakdown by party in Calvert County is almost 41% registered Republican and 35% registered Democrat. More information about these races will be coming in various formats so there will be opportunity to be informed of candidates' stances on important issues and remember that voting is both a right and our responsibility.

In other news:

Over the summer, 24 committee appointments were made to serve advisory roles with the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and some were actually teachers.

Declines in Maryland's sales tax collections from the previous year will probably result in state budget pressures and therefore possible cuts in school funding in the future. Maryland was one of 26 states that saw dramatic decreases with Maryland being the greatest decline at 35.7%. But, in good news, casino gaming revenues over the summer are at an almost near record level resulting in almost \$50 million going to schools.

Those of you traveling south this summer may have noticed the progress on the new Henry Nice/Mac Middleton (301) Bridge which is scheduled to come on-line early 2023. And, there now has been some progress for relief for the Thomas Johnson (Solomons) Bridge which is considered 1 of 273 bridges in Maryland "functionally obsolete and rated structurally deficient". Legislators from both sides of the river (including US Congressman Steny Hoyer, US Senator Ben Cardin, MD State Delegate Rachel Jones, and Commissioner Buddy Hance as well as leaders from St. Mary's County) met in Solomons on May 23rd to discuss the demands on the bridge. Leaders spoke that a replacement is necessary not only because of Pax River but especially as it is an escape route in an emergency (Calvert Cliffs and Cove Point Natural Gas Plants as well as some southern Calvert schools). Maryland's other US Senator, Chris Van Hollen, was not present as he was recovering from a minor stroke but is part of the federal delegation that has secured \$1 million for a project/design, to widen Rt 4 for a potential replacement. .