



## Candidate Comments

# 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE SURVEY

*For the 2018 Maryland CAPE Candidate Surveys, candidates were asked the questions below, exactly as they appear. Candidates were asked to state a position of either “support” or “oppose” to each question and were then given the option of issuing additional comments relative to each question in order to explain their position.*

*Please note that all candidates were issued reminders of the survey submission deadline and had ample and equal opportunity to respond. If candidates did not submit comments, they are not included on this form. “N/A” indicates that a candidate did not issue a comment relative to a particular question. All candidates’ respective “support” or “oppose” answers can be found by visiting <http://www.mdnonpubs.org/2018electionsurveys.html>.*

**\*\*\* Maryland CAPE does not endorse or oppose any candidate, under any circumstance, and no inference of endorsement or opposition should be concluded as a result of the information provided here.**

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

### 1. NONPUBLIC TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

- Do you support or oppose funding in the Maryland state budget to provide textbooks and technology to assist students attending low-tuition nonpublic schools?

### 2. EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- Do you support or oppose the expansion of options for low-income Maryland students through the provision of scholarships to enable them to attend the nonpublic K-12 school of their parents’ choice?

### 3. AGING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- Do you support or oppose the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program, which provides \$3.5 million in state assistance directed toward aging and/or lower-income nonpublic schools for infrastructural maintenance or security upgrades?

### 4. DIVERSE DELIVERY PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION

- Do you support or oppose a “diverse delivery” method of state-funded prekindergarten expansion, wherein both nonpublic prekindergarten programs and public schools would be utilized in expanding access for prekindergarten to all Maryland four-year-olds?

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## District 1

### Michael M Dreisbach (D) - 1A - House of Delegates

1. I would like to have more information but believe whenever we can reach out to help the student population no matter what their economic level we should.
2. I could look at this very closely. I do think is in the best interest for the education system to have a wide range of social interaction for the entire student body.
3. I really need more information
4. I would support such an approach to allow the students at this age to get as much prekindergarten school as possible regardless of public or private.

### **Wendell R. Beitzel (R) - 1A - House of Delegates**

1. I serve on the House Appropriations committee and supported funding for this purpose in the 2018 budget.
2. Maryland is required by constitutional provision to provide a public education system for all of our children. I someone elects to send their children to a private school it is their choice, but taxpayers should not subsidize the costs.
3. I voted for the FY 2019 Budget which contains this funding.
4. The cost is astronomical and this turns out to be nothing more that pubic subsidized day care for parents.

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## **District 2**

### **Neil C. Parrot (R) - 2A - House of Delegates**

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I do not believe the state should have mandatory pre-k programs like kindergarten is currently required. I also do not support public schools providing pre-k programs except through programs that previously existed like Head Start or as a part of instructional high-school courses. If pre-k funding continues to expand though, I believe the state should maximize the existing structure to teach pre-k students through private education.

### **William Joseph Wivell (R) - 2A - House of Delegates**

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Overall, I support competition in pre-k if it were to be expanded. I am not convinced, however, that pre-k expansion is the best use of a limited resource -- taxpayer funds. I have never felt that it is fair to offer pre-k in only low income areas. I currently work as a Business Manager for a private school and am a product of private and public schools. Competition is good. It raises the bar for all.

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## **District 3**

### **Craig Giangrande (R) - 3 - Senate**

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Access, Yes. Mandatory pre K, No.

### **Mike Bowersox (R) - 3A - House of Delegates**

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I support Catholic Education and my Granddaughters go to a Charter School. I think a potential solution to solve overcrowding public schools, is that private schools, that have empty seats, could be filled by students, in those areas, with tuition subsidy's, by the state.

### **Ken Kerr (D) - 3B - House of Delegates**

1. Until public schools are fully funded, I do not support taking money from Constitutionally-required public education and awarding it to discretionary private institutions.
2. Public Schools in my district have been underfunded for a decade. We have the second lowest starting salary for teachers in the state. We cannot afford to lose needed public funding for private schools at this time.
3. While some areas of the state may have a great need for private schools, Frederick County has no failing schools and does not need to fund private institutions to meet the educational needs of the residents of my district or my county.
4. Until the State adopts and is able to staff and fund universal, all-day Pre-K, I am in favor of getting as many 3 and 4-year-old children into school as soon as possible.

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## **District 4**

### **Dan Cox (R) - 4 - House of Delegates**

1. Provided equally for every county.
2. I strongly support education tax credits, savings accounts, and vouchers provided equally for every Maryland and US citizen and parent.
3. This should be equally provided throughout the state and every county.
4. In my County - with the Second-largest City in Maryland - we receive the smallest amount of K-12 education funding. The state must not begin picking and choosing private programs it likes to divert tax dollars away from public schools. Pre-kindergarten is optional and not mandatory under Education Article 7-301. Although prekindergarten programs are generally positive, no movement towards universal state or institutionalization of children is healthy for families.

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## **District 5**

### **Justin Ready (R) - 5 - Senate**

1. N/A
2. N/A

3. N/A
4. I would support it being diverse but oppose making pre-K mandatory or all-day.

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## District 6

### Johnny R. Salling (R) - 6 - Senate

1. Let's support all schools. Education for all is the answer.
2. I believe in choice for parents.
3. N/A
4. N/A

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## District 7

### Gordon Koerner (D) - 7 - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I oppose taxpayer money going to nonpublic schools. There are enough public schools and taking money to fund other schools cuts into funding of public schools. If parents are dissatisfied and want to send their children to nonpublic schools, that is their choice. They should spend their own money to fund these nonpublic schools.

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## District 8

### Eric Bromwell (D) - 8 - House of Delegates

1. I have supported this for 16 years.
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. This is the first I have heard of such a program and would need more information.

### Joe Cluster (R) - 8 - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. I am a strong supporter of the Boost Program and was very upset to see that future increases in funding were stripped out of the Governor's budget.
3. I support providing money for Security because all Maryland Students should feel safe no matter where they attend school, however, I am opposed for infrastructure maintenance. These buildings do not belong to the state and I do not feel it is taxpayers responsibility to maintain them.

4. N/A

#### **Joe Norman (R) - 8 - House of Delegates**

1. If this program can be funded without raising additional revenue then I would support it.
2. I think that the kids should come first, and if they would be better served in a non-public school then the state should provide that opportunity.
3. If this program can be funded without raising additional revenue then I would support it.
4. If this program can be funded without raising additional revenue then I would support it.

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## **District 9**

#### **Natalie Ziegler (D) - 9A - House of Delegates**

1. In general I oppose using public funds for non-public schools.
2. I don't oppose scholarships unless they come from funds which otherwise would go to public schools.
3. Again, I think non-public schools need to be funded by private funds.
4. This is something I might support, but would have to see the details.

#### **Trent Kittleman (R) - 9A - House of Delegates**

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I am and have always been a strong supporter of education choice -- Charter schools, private schools, school vouchers, BOOST, MANSEF, and other alternatives that give families the opportunity to get their children out of poorly performing public schools and into schools where they can succeed.

#### **Warren E Miller (R) - 9A - House of Delegates**

1. I am a longtime supporter of textbook funding for private schools.
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I have concerns about the costs of such a program and would need to learn more about the benefits and proposed costs before I would support this.

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## District 10

### George H. Harman (R) - 10 - House of Delegates

1. In concept I support funding for private schools, but my preference is to provide a tax credit to the families that send their children to private schools, or home school them. Once state funding is established for programs, the only way it can go is up. Simply put, let the private sector provide the resources from tuition that can be used as a tax credit. Once established, state budgets tend to only grow. My overarching goal is for a smaller amount of government spending.
2. Again, tax credits would be my preference for supporting private school education.
3. I do not support more government involvement in schools. Reduced taxes, or offsets for those that use private schools, should provide the means of giving families, and the private schools, the resources to pay for private schooling.
4. Given the failure of many families to provide for the preparation of their children for entering schools, and the problems this causes, it is essential that must support any efforts that replace the now missing home training. My preference, however, is to focus efforts on promoting stable family structures that allow for the training of young children in the home.

### Brian Marcos (R) - 10 - House of Delegates

1. I am a firm believer in investing in our children. I will not make excuses and never place anything in front of them. If I can help make a difference I will. Low-tuition nonpublic schools can be difficult to find proper funding especially technology always changing, I'll support the program.
2. If the child has warned their right to attend higher education I will support more opportunities to better their future. Many public schools are struggling and parents do not want to send their children if they can help it. With more opportunities available we will all win for giving our children higher education.
3. For lower income schools, that may not be able to keep up with maintenance I will support. It's not only for the buildings sake, but for our children and faculty safety as well
4. This will help not only the children but parents who struggle to pay for day care, especially with the children with late birthdays who must wait another year to start. Great education starts from day one, if we can help them get there any faster, we will.

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## District 11

### Dana Stein (D) - 11 - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. I have been a strong supporter of the BOOST program.
3. N/A
4. N/A

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## District 12

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 12.

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## District 13

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 13.

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## District 14

### **Robert Drozd (R) - 14 - Senate**

1. Caveats: Public funding always has strings attached. Private schools serve best when they are in full control of textbook selection. I would support technology funds.
2. School choice ought not be limited strictly to the affluent. That said, it could not be a blank check to bypass public schools that demonstrably provide safe and positive academic experiences.
3. Caveat: provided public funds are a reasonable share of the maintenance and upgrade costs for demonstrably aging schools, and not the sole source or for use by schools not demonstrably aging relative to public schools in the same district. The more funding a nonpublic school seeks from public funds, the more closely it will be expected to become a public school.
4. I strongly support this effort. I would support public funds and/or resources applied to parochial or private schools to enable activities that have a clear public / community interest (e.g., pre-K, daycare operations, or playground improvements) that serve all and for which public schools do not provide sufficient alternatives.

### **Anne Kaiser (D) - 14 - House of Delegates**

1. I fundamentally believe that public dollars should first fund public schools. However, this program has been in existence for a long while, so rather than ending it, I would rather not increase funds for it.
2. Public dollars provide for a free and appropriate education for all of Maryland's children, no matter their zip code or income bracket.
3. I fundamentally believe that public dollars should first fund public schools. However, this program has been in existence for a long while and if children are in non-public schools, the State has an interest in ensuring the infrastructure is safe and fit for purpose.
4. At the heart of the Kirwan Commission is the deep desire by all involved to move past what we have done towards what we could do. Much of the expansion of Pre-K is hampered by a simple infrastructural gap. Suggestions such as this should be embraced and evaluated.

### **Patricia Fenati (R) - 14 - House of Delegates**

1. However, I would hope that there will be a committee to determine if the school wants the same textbooks that are used in the public schools

2. N/A
3. N/A
4. If Pre-kindergarten is provided by public schools, I believe there private schools should also get funding for this program. It should provide access to families but not a requirement for pre-Kindergarten.

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## District 15

### David Wilson (R) - 15 - Senate

1. N/A
2. Programs in other states show a significant increase in student ranking, graduation rates, and in parent satisfaction. There are school districts in Maryland that could benefit from expanding this program.
3. This program has been a big success and should be continued.
4. Diverse delivery is a great opportunity for educational professionals to share best practices. This is a win-win for teachers, students, and parents. The additional "win" results from the more efficient use of private and public money.

### Laurie Halverson (R) - 15 - House of Delegates

1. It is important for students of poverty to have options in what schools they attend. I fully support helping these low income students with state funds to assist in their learning.
2. When I was on the State Board of Education, I talked to parents of non-public schools and they very much appreciated the BOOST program. It helps parents to afford non-public school options. I was pleased to see the budget increased to \$9 million last year and was included in the Governor's FY 2019 budget. More advertisement of this program will help public school parents know this program exists.
3. This amount was included in the 2019 budget and I support assistance that reaches low income students. Improvements supported by the state also help keep our classrooms healthy and safe for students.
4. It is likely that quality pre-k programs will be expanding in Maryland & our state won't be able to do this economically without working with nonpublic pre-k programs. Capacity is an issue in public schools. To reduce overcrowding, the state will need to rely on our non-public programs which are already established. If elected, I look forward to collaborating with education leaders to coordinate the plan to become a state that is known for high-quality pre-k programs for ALL students.

### Harvey Jacobs (R) - 15 - House of Delegates

1. So long as it does not reduce the MCPS operating budget.
2. N/A
3. Especially for security upgrades. Gambling revenues should be lockboxed for education.
4. So long as the methods make Common Sense.

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## District 16

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 16.

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## District 17

### Josephine J. Wang (R) - 17 - Senate

1. It provides an opportunity for parents to make a choice for the education of their children. I fully support the non-public private education funding!
2. Often children from poor families have the ability to do amazing academic work. These children should never be deprived of the opportunity to an education which will lift them up from poverty. Case in point is Dr. Ben Carson's life.
3. I am supportive of programs that have had some success, but will view case by case in order to determine its worth.
4. Diversity in program or diversity in student population?

### George Hernandez (R) - 17 - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I believe 1000% in school competition and grassroots innovation in education.

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## District 18

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 18.

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## District 19

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 19

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## District 20

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 20.

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## District 21

### Jim Rosapepe (D) - 21 - Senate

1. N/A
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2. Depends on the specifics.
3. N/A
4. N/A

#### **Lee Havis (R) - 21 - Senate**

1. Any government support of non-public education involves the risk of control. Taxpayer funded curriculum and materials brings to bear government control and regulation that adversely affects the effective operation of true alternatives to public (government) schooling. In general, taxpayer funding is better channeled through such means as hybrid private means as charter schools and voucher programs, which non-public schools could hopefully participate in by choice.
2. Although I am not well informed about the operation of opportunity scholarships, I do favor the expansion of voluntary, private funding of any aid programs for children to attend K-12 programs through parents' choice. That said, where parents are too poor to choose nonpublic schools of their choice, an effective "voucher" program could be designed that would be taxpayer funded within the parameters of suitable government regulation and management at the most local level possible.
3. Taxpayer funding for nonpublic school construction would bring restrictive controls and conditions that would be hard to make fair for the participation by all those interested. Large amounts of money would be involved for such specialized spending for building and construction. Better to employ private funding through charity contribution and foundation grants.
4. Government funded pre-k education brings control and regulation that has harmed quality and value in k-12 public schools. More affordable, quality pre-k educational programs will naturally emerge through support for free market enterprise in the field, by reducing unnecessary restrictions on staff hiring, space requirements, instruction, and curriculum. State-funding would work against quality through free market competition and choice.

#### **Chike Anyanwu (R) - 21 - House of Delegates**

1. Parents of nonpublic school students are also tax payers, and therefore deserve the benefits of their contributions toward the government.
2. Charter schools and homeschools are good options.
3. N/A
4. Parents need to be responsible for prekindergarten education of their children.

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## **District 22**

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 22.

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## District 23

### Geraldine Valentino-Smith (D) - 23A - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. I do believe there should be some limits so that we preserve a balance for private and public options.
3. I support because the amount does not adversely impact the public school capital program.
4. I support getting to a 100% Pre-K and the combined method has been what allowed Baltimore City to get to a 100% so a diverse delivery appears necessary for 100% goal.

### Kathleen Kositzky Crank (R) - 23A - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I do not believe prekindergarten programs are necessary for most children.

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## District 24

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 24.

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## District 25

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 25.

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## District 26

### Kris Valderrama (D) - 26 - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I'm not familiar with this concept but sounds like something I would lean towards supporting

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## District 27

### Mark N. Fisher (R) - 27C - House of Delegates

1. I support the textbook program. However, Annapolis is increasingly requiring private schools that receive state funds to comply with ever-increasing state education mandates. The state mandates are increasingly encroaching

upon the private school experience. This is because Annapolis Progressives do not support the right of parents to exercise their freedom of educational choice.

2. Delegate Proctor (now deceased) was a strong proponent of this program. As a former school administrator in Prince George's County, Delegate Proctor recognized that not all students benefit from a "one size fits all" education system. I agree with Delegate Proctor.
3. I support the textbook program. However, Annapolis is increasingly requiring private schools that receive state funds to comply with ever-increasing state education mandates. The state mandates are increasingly encroaching upon the private school experience. This is because Annapolis Progressives do not support the right of parents to exercise their freedom of educational choice.
4. I support private Prekindergarten programs as deemed appropriate by parents. This is a decision that should be made exclusively by parents and not the State. I firmly believe that mandating State Prekindergarten programs is unwise and not financially sustainable, without a massive tax increase.

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## District 28

### James (Jim) Crawford (R) - 28 - House of Delegates

1. Since Nonpublic schools SAVE the state and county budgets so much money, they should gladly provide extensive services and supplies.
2. Again, since Nonpublic schools SAVE the state and county budgets so much money, they should also gladly provide scholarship or vouchers. My children attended and all six grandchildren now attend Nonpublic schools while all of my tax money only supports the government, public schools.
3. In the long run, anything the state and counties can do for Nonpublic schools does NOT cost; it pays.
4. I do support state funds for pre-K use for Nonpublic schools, although I favor children spending as much time as possible at home before formal schooling begins.

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## District 29

### Gerald "Jerry" Clark (R) - 29C - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Believe 4 year-old children should be at home with parents.

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## District 30

### Ron George (R) - 30 - Senate

1. I served 8 years and sponsored the BOAST Program. I support choices in education and feel our state feels private schools and homeschools and charter schools will take resources from public schools. They do not. In fact, they are

saving the public schools much in funds by teaching children in nonpublic schools. Helping lower income students brings hope.

2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Pre K is fine with me but must not be required.

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## District 31

### Harry E. Freeman (D) - 31 - House of Delegates

1. Shouldn't the tuition collected by the school go towards educating the children, provide proper academic literature, and technology? Public schools are a tuition-free option that should receive the public funds of the Maryland State budget.
2. Parents can choose to send their children to any academic establishment they choose. Our public education should be the standard--they aren't. When things aren't as we like them, we don't quit, we push to fix the problems. I won't quit on our public schools regardless of a parent's socio-economic standing.
3. N/A
4. I am a supporter of universal prekindergarten for all Maryland 4-year olds.

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## District 32

### Tim Walters (R) - 32 - House of Delegates

1. I believe in school choice and that tax dollars should follow the student.
2. I believe in school choice and that tax dollars should follow the student.
3. N/A
4. Kindergarten is preparation for grade school. I do not support expanding pre-knowledge prior to that unless a parent wants to send their child.

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## District 33

### Michael Edward Malone (R) - 33 - House of Delegates

1. Maryland should support our children's education in both public and private schools.
2. Parents need to have options to provide their child a quality education.
3. As stated before, Maryland should support both public and private schools.
4. Once again, parents should have options for their children. Public prekindergarten may not be the best option or use of funds.

## **Tony McConkey (R) - 33 - House of Delegates**

1. Fully support the program and have worked hard to protect and expand the program as a member of the House Appropriations Committee.
2. I strongly support providing education choices for low income students.
3. N/A
4. N/A

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## **District 34**

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 34.

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## **District 35**

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 35.

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## **District 36**

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 36.

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## **District 37**

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 37.

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## **District 38**

### **Mary Beth Carozza (R) - 38 - Senate**

1. I voted in favor of adding \$6 million for the Nonpublic Student Textbook Program.
2. I voted in favor of adding \$7.6 million for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) program for nonpublic schools. I also support expanding funding to allow low-income students to attend nonpublic schools. I am a supporter of vouchers and school choice.
3. N/A
4. I support diverse delivery prekindergarten that would include nonpublic and public schools.

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## **District 39**

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 39.

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## District 40

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 40.

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## District 41

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 41.

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## District 42

### Chris West (R) - 42 - Senate

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I'm not convinced that the State should undertake universal pre-K education, but if a decision is made to go forward, we should explore non-public options.

### Nino Mangione (R) - 42B - House of Delegates

1. Strongly Support
2. Strongly Support
3. Support provided good business practices are implemented to get best value and service
4. Strongly Support

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## District 43

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 43.

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## District 44

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 44.

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## District 45

\*\*\* No candidates submitted comments for District 45.

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## District 46

### Brooke Lierman (D) - 46 - House of Delegates

1. In general, I oppose providing support to nonpublic schools that discriminate based on disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. Because we are not yet fully funding our public schools, I have serious concerns about spending money on nonpublic schools.
2. I am opposed to voucher programs for many reasons, including that research shows very mixed or negative outcomes for students who use vouchers. I also do not believe we should be using tax dollars to send children to religious schools. Although I attended Catholic parochial schools as a child, I do not think that someone should subsidize that choice. I have concerns that under BOOST, my tax dollars are subsidizing the teaching of creationism or other non-fact-based curricula.
3. Because many bond dollars go to nonpublic institutions, I do not have any concerns about the aging schools program.
4. In order to efficiently expand preK to all four-year-olds, we will need to use a diverse delivery system.

### Nicholas Wentworth (R) - 46 - House of Delegates

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. I support all these policies and believe a stronger relationship between public and nonpublic schools would be beneficial to both systems. However, if nonpublic schools are going to be beneficiaries of state funds, then they must be equal partners with public schools in ensuring the education of all Maryland children. (Continued on next comment)
4. (Continued from above comment) Thus, the expectation would be that students struggling in a public school environment would have the opportunity to attend the private school best suited to ministering to the child's unique character regardless of the family's ability to pay tuition fees.

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## District 47

### Fred Price Jr (R) - 47 - Senate

1. What's the fiscal note?
2. I believe the dollars should follow the child.
3. Need more information.
4. I don't know what a diverse delivery is and what is the cost?

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END