



## 2022 Maryland Primary Candidate Survey State Legislative District 37

The Maryland Council for American Private Education (CAPE) advocates for the interests of the 125,000-plus nonpublic students in Maryland and their families. We invited all gubernatorial and General Assembly candidates to respond to a brief candidate survey (“support” or “oppose”), and provide a brief comment on each answer, on critical issues for non-public schools in Maryland. All of the survey responses and election links are online at [www.mdnonpubs.org](http://www.mdnonpubs.org).

**\*Primary Election is July 19 (early voting July 7-14)\***

**NOTE: Some districts have new boundaries due to redistricting**

**Response key:**

**S:** agree; **O:** disagree; - : no response | D: Democrat | R: Republican

Full questions and written comments follow the chart below.

District	Office	Party	Candidate	Non-public School Aid	Public \$ are Only for Pub Schools	Education Scholarships	BOOST	Capital Dollars	
	Governor	D	Peter Franchot	S	O	S	S	S	
		D	Douglas F. Gansler	S	-	S	S	S	
		D	Ralph Jaffe	S	O	S	S	S	
		R	Dan Cox	S	O	S	S	S	
		R	Robin Ficker	S	O	S	S	S	
		R	Kelly Schulz	Did not submit a response					
		R	Joe Werner						
		D	Jon Baron						
		D	Ashwani Jain						
		D	John King						
		D	Wes Moore						
		D	Tom Perez						
D	Jerome M. Segal								
37	Senator	D	Naomi Hyman	Did not submit a response					
37	Senator	R	Adelaide "Addie" Eckardt	S	O	-	S	S	
37	Senator	R	Johnny Mautz	S	O	S	S	S	
37A	Delegate	D	Sheree Sample-Hughes	Did not submit a response					
37A	Delegate	R	Donna Bradshaw	S	O	S	S	O	
37B	Delegate	D	Susan E. Delean-Botkin	Did not submit a response					
37B	Delegate	R	Nicole L. Acle	S	O	S	S	S	
37B	Delegate	R	Christopher T. Adams	S	O	S	S	S	
37B	Delegate	R	Tom Hutchinson	Did not submit a response					
37B	Delegate	R	Ron James	S	O	S	S	O	

*MD CAPE does not endorse or oppose any candidate and no inference of endorsement or opposition should be concluded as a result of the information here.*

## Maryland CAPE 2022 Candidate Survey

### 2022 Candidate Questions

*State district and gubernatorial responses follow*

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**1. Aid to Nonpublic Schools**

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose state dollars going to nonprofit nonpublic schools to support educating the children who attend?

**2. "Public Dollars"**

Do you support or oppose the statement "Public dollars are only for public schools"?

**3. Education Opportunity Scholarships**

Do you support or oppose the statement "Parents should have the right to utilize the state dollars allocated for their child's education at whatever school they choose for them, whether public, private or charter"?

**4. BOOST Scholarship Program**

Do you support or oppose funding for Maryland's existing BOOST Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to low-income students to be used to attend nonpublic schools, at its current levels for new students?

**5. Capital Dollars for Private Schools**

Do you support or oppose state support for infrastructure or security upgrades and maintenance being allocated to nonpublic schools in the state budget?

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## Open-ended Candidate Answers

### District 37 State Senator Candidates

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#### **Adelaide "Addie" Eckardt (R)**

Q4: BOOST: I have continuously supported funding for all Maryland's' children

#### **Johnny Mautz (R)**

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: One of the best incentives to improve public education is to ensure students and families have an option other than public schools.

Q2: Public dollars: Public dollars are taxpayer funds, and those funds dedicated for education are not limited to public school systems. Especially where students and families elect private education and are forced to contribute to public education while also paying tuition for a private education.

Q4: BOOST: I have served in the House of Delegates for the past eight years and have supported every effort to increase BOOST funding and opposed every effort to reduce it.

### District 37A State Delegate Candidates

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#### **Donna Bradshaw (R)**

Q1: Aid to nonpublic schools: I would like to see at least a tax credit for parents who choose private education or homeschooling for their children. After all, these parents are paying taxes to support public schools and not utilizing the service.

Q2: Public dollars: See above

Q3: Educational scholarships: Our system is obviously not working well and parents choosing alternative methods of educating their children should have some access to the funds they pay in with their tax money.

Q4: BOOST: As long as the money does not come with strings attached for the school, I support this program.

Q5: Capital dollars: Nonpublic schools should not be a burden to the state in this regard. Tuition help is one thing, maintenance, etc. is altogether another issue; one that the school has taken into consideration at its inception.

## Gubernatorial Candidates

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### **Peter Franchot (D)**

Q1: Nonpublic school aid: I will increase funding in our grant programs and award funding to organizations that provide grassroots support for the communities they serve. Preference will always be given to public schools and state programs. However, if a nonpublic school demonstrates that they are philanthropically engaged in their communities, do not discriminate against any students, and are in need of financial assistance, I am willing to award funding on a case-by-case basis.

Q2: Public dollars: I will be an education-oriented governor, and I am committed to improving all of Maryland's public schools so that there is not a disparity in the quality of education between private and public education. That said, I have committed to maintaining the BOOST program, so long as funding is used specifically for those students who would not be able to otherwise attend the school.

Q3: Education scholarships: My funding priority will be the state's public schools. I believe support for private schools should be limited and strategic.

Q4: BOOST: I am on record in support of doubling the BOOST program to support families in need.

Q5: Capital dollars: Investment in our public schools will be the priority. I am willing to explore on a case-by-case basis the state providing support to ensure that all Maryland students can learn in a safe environment.

### **Douglas F. Gansler (D)**

Q1: Nonpublic school aid: I support both robust investment in public schools as well as support for non-public schools, particularly in the areas of security, mental health professionals, and tuition assistance so that parents are empowered to send children to the school of their choice. Furthermore, as a Jewish man, I recognize and respect that some parents want to send their children to religious schools.

Q2: Public dollars: I think the sentence "public dollars are only for public schools" is loaded and suggests a zero sum game that pits private and public schools against each other. Maryland is sitting on an unprecedented surplus. I support the Blueprint's once-in-a-generation opportunity to make historic investments in our public schools, and I will work hard to implement it. I also believe that we should expand educational opportunities at non-profit and religious schools so that parents are empowered to choose the school that is right for their child.

Q3: Education scholarships: I support the use of tax dollars to empower parents to choose the right school for their child. However, Maryland should ensure that the schools who benefit from this support are held accountable to inclusive and non-discriminatory environments.

Q4: BOOST: I support increasing funding for BOOST to empower low-income families, including families who want to send their children to a religious school, to be able to afford the school of their choice.

Q5: Capital dollars: My number one priority for all schools is to ensure the safety of the students, educators, support staff and everyone on school grounds. I support allocating state tax dollars for both security and infrastructure upgrades so that all schools are safe learning environments.

### **Dan Cox (R)**

Q1: Nonpublic school aid: I support the dollars following the children by parental choice.

Q4: BOOST: And I would expand this program.