

Northwest VOICE

Your voice in the community

ELECTION ISSUE
JUNE 2026

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A free publication serving Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown, Reisterstown, Windsor Mill, Woodlawn and Catonsville

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Early Voting Kicks Off Historic Primary Election on June 11

West Side Voter Turnout Will Play Critical Role in County Executive, Council Races



From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

The Power and Influence of the West

Political observers will advise that the road to winning a countywide election in Baltimore County must cut through the westside communities.

That means that a high voter turnout in Randallstown, Owings Mills, Woodlawn, Lochearn, Pikesville, Reisterstown, Milford Mill and Windsor Mill can greatly influence the outcome for County Executive, Sheriff and State's Attorney.

Together, the west side zip codes of 21117, 21133, 21136, 21207, 21208, 21244 include the highest percentages of Black and nonwhite residents in the county, as well as the highest percentage of registered Democrat voters. In other words: If you're a Democrat and you want to be elected, you need the west side.

It is no coincidence that the major candidates for Baltimore County Executive are so energetically courting people who live west of Northern Parkway. These are people who have no problem finding us around election time.

A solid amount of their community outreach is spent attending meetings, participating in community clean-ups, and answering questions in political forums such as those hosted by the NAACP and League of Women Voters. Candidates are sending mailers, posting photos on Facebook and creating TV commercials very strategically featuring residents and supporters who live on the west side.

They come to our churches, they "co-op" who they believe to be influential community leaders, or uninitiated followers, and have their

"WE MUST VOTE FOR SOMETHING AND SOMEONE, NOT JUST AGAINST SOMETHING AND SOMEONE. DON'T SQUANDER YOUR VOTE FOR THE OKEY DOKE."

—KENNY BROWN

surrogates go out and collect votes. It's a well used campaign strategy to try to lock down community leaders and black votes early on with an array of tactics. Recognizing the impact of a voting bloc, is also a strategy to split the vote and dilute the power.

The same level of excitement and interest does not exist in this year's Gubernatorial Primary Election like it did four years ago. In 2022, many thought Comptroller Peter Franchot, who appealed to both the Republican and Democratic Party, was a shoo-in for Governor, and that Congressman David Trone's \$62 million war chest could successfully attract enough votes to succeed the retiring Barbara Mikulski in the U.S. Senate. Baltimore County voters helped make the difference. Wes Moore, CEO of a nonprofit, became Maryland's first black Governor and the highly regarded Prince George's County Angela Alsobrooks was resoundingly elected the first Black Senator from Maryland. The west side went for Alsobrooks. The results may have been different if the west side sat home.

Let's go back even further to 2018. Former

delegate Johnny Olsewski, a Dundalk native and resident of the Sparrows Point area, was from the east side. But he strategically announced his campaign in Woodlawn and built coalitions with District 10, 11 and 44 state legislators and goodwill with our communities. I guarantee you that his victory by a mere 17 votes would not have happened without strong support from Randallstown, Woodlawn and all points west.

This year, the statewide races are not as competitive, but we do have the opportunity to make history in the contests for County Executive and Baltimore County Council, Sheriff and State's Attorney. Whoever wins these elections will shape the future of the county with regard to crime reduction, law enforcement, land use, business development, affordable housing and other issues important to constituents.

We don't want to cast our votes just to check a box, be it for the first Black, first woman,

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Northwest VOICE

Your voice in the community

The Northwest Voice is a community newspaper covering news of interest to communities in the western sector Baltimore County. Keep up to date at nwvoicenews.com

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Photography and Circulation: George White
Website: nwvoicenews.com
www.facebook.com/northwestvoice/
www.instagram.com/nwvoicenews/

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BRING DOWN ENERGY COSTS
& KEEP OUR FAMILIES SAFE**

Julian Jones is a career firefighter, union leader, business owner, and four-time Chairman of the Baltimore County Council who has spent his career delivering results.

He helped create thousands of new homes, has a plan to lower energy bills, and led major public safety reforms that made Baltimore County safer.

In a time when Baltimore County needs results on housing, affordability, and public safety, Julian has the experience to deliver as County Executive.

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DEMOCRAT FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

By Authority: Citizens for Julian Jones, Greg Banks, Treasurer.

By Authority: Citizens For Julian Jones, Greg Banks, Treasurer

PHOTO: JANET ANDERSON



Candidate signs staked in front of Double T Diner in Catonsville signal that it is an election season. The busy intersection surrounded by retail makes the location a high visibility site.

The Final Push Toward the Primary Election Is On

Candidates Rev Up Activity to Attract Attention

We are in the final countdown for Maryland's highly consequential Primary Election that takes place on June 23. Early voting in Baltimore County and across the state begins June 11 and ends June 18, and a lot is at stake.

Baltimore County voters will decide critical races for a wide range of state, local and congressional offices, including State Senate and House of Delegates, County Executive, County Council, U.S. House of Representatives, State's Attorney, Sheriff, Register of Wills, Clerk of the Court, and judges for Orphans Court and District Court. More than 140 Democrats and Republicans are on the ballot.

With little competition facing incumbent Governor Wes Moore, Comptroller Brooke Lierman, and Attorney General Anthony Brown, much of the attention is focused on local contests. Three County Council members are among those vying to become County Executive and dozens of hopefuls are campaigning for seven open council seats in nine expanded and redrawn districts including four on the west side.

Also in central county government, five-term State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger is up against two solid contenders, and incumbent Sheriff R. Jay Fisher, who has held office since

2002, has chosen not to run, creating an open seat. Clyde Boatwright, a Middle River resident, who has worked in law enforcement for more than 25 years, is viewed as the strongest contender. The Register of Wills Alexis Burrell-Rohde and Clerk of Circuit Court Julie Ensor are unopposed.

Campaign activity is everywhere, from Catonsville to Woodlawn to Randallstown and Reisterstown and other points west. Political signs — both legal and illegal — line public roadways and are staked on lawns and business properties. Glossy mailers are arriving in mailboxes with greater frequency. Volunteers in colorful campaign T-shirts with lists of voters are canvassing neighborhoods knocking on doors, waving to motorists at busy intersections, and manning phone banks.

Candidates are participating in multiple debates and forums hosted by business organizations, nonprofits and the media to share their vision, reinforce their message, and highlight differences with their opponents. They are making their way to church and other houses of worship—sometimes to say a few words and other times to be recognized from

Double T Is the Place to Be

When it comes to political signs, the real estate adage — location, location, location — holds true. One of the hottest spots in the county for signs is outside Double T Diner at Rolling Road and Baltimore National Pike in Catonsville.

Thousands of motorists pass through the four-way intersection every day, making it a prime spot for visibility. It's common to see protesters rallying, campaign volunteers waving signs, and individuals asking drivers for food and money.

During election season, Double T Diner becomes an even more icon site than it's been over the past several decades. No matter which direction you're traveling — west toward Ellicott City, east into Baltimore City, north to Windsor Mill and Randallstown, or south through Catonsville — you can spot from any intersection and nearby retail areas both large and itty-bitty signs staked in the grassy area in front of the restaurant's parking lot.

The election signs represent a wide range of races, including County Executive, councilmanic Districts 1 and 2, state legislative Districts 10 and 44, Sheriff, State's Attorney, Democratic Central Committee, and more.

Owner Nick Korolgos says he doesn't mind candidates placing their signs in front of the diner. "I support the campaigns, and I want to help them out," he said. However, he insists on one condition: "After the election, they have to take the signs down the very next day."

Candidates also appreciate the diner as a convenient meeting place. With its spacious, busy dining rooms, they can meet over a meal—whether early in the morning or late at night—without drawing much attention.

Known for its extensive menu, generous portions, and classic comfort food, Double T Diner has been family-owned since 1986. Korolgos, whose family immigrated from Greece and then settled in New York, says he has been part of the diner since he was six years old. Today, Korolgos continues to work there in various roles, serving patrons from near and far.

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PHOTO: JANET ANDERSON



Thirty-eight drop boxes, such as the one at Woodlawn Senior Center, are available 24 hours a day until 8 p.m. on June 23. Ballots are collected daily and only authorized election officials have access to the boxes. These drop boxes are not operated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Locations to Drop Your Mail Ballot

If you complete a mail-in ballot, you can drop it in one of the 38 approved ballot boxes that have been installed around the county. According to the Board of Elections, drop boxes are available 24 hours a day leading up to Primary Election Day on June 23. The secure boxes will be locked and will not accept ballots after 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23. Ballots are picked up from the boxes every day by election officials. The drop boxes are not the property of the United States Postal Service.

Below are the locations that may be most convenient to voters on the west side. Baltimore County residents must use a ballot box in Baltimore County.

Halethorpe

Arbutus Recreation Center
865 Sulphur Spring Road

Towson

Baltimore County Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson University
South Campus Pavilion – 1 S. Auburn

Catonsville

Catonsville High School
421 Bloomsbury Avenue
Catonsville Middle School
2301 Edmondson Avenue
University of MD Baltimore Campus
The Commons, 1000 Hilltop Circle

Owings Mills

County Campus Metro Centre
10302 Grand Central Avenue

Baltimore County Board of Elections
5 Crossing Way

New Town High School
4931 New Town Boulevard

Windsor Mill

Milford Mill Academy
3800 Washington Avenue

Pikesville (NEW!)

NEW! Pikesville Library
1301 Reisterstown Road
Northwest Academy of Health Sciences
4627 Old Court Road

Pikesville High School
7621 Labyrinth Road

Randallstown

Randallstown Community Center
3505 Resource Drive
Randallstown High School
4000 Offutt Road

Reisterstown

Reisterstown Senior Center
12035 Reisterstown Road
Franklin High School
12000 Reisterstown Road

Woodlawn

Woodlawn Community Center
2120 Gwynn Oak Avenue
Woodlawn High School
1801 Woodlawn Drive

A complete list of locations may be found at elections.maryland.gov.

Make sure that the return envelope for your ballot is sealed and that the oath is signed before returning it. It must be postmarked on or before June 23, 2026.

PRIMARY ELECTION DEADLINES AND RESOURCES

June 2

Deadline to register to vote online or change party affiliation **elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html**

June 2

Deadline to register to vote

June 16

Deadline to request a mailed or faxed ballot **elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html**

June 19

Deadline to request a mail-in ballot online **https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlineinmailrequest/InstructionsStep1**

June 23

Last day a mail-in ballot must be postmarked

June 23

Last day to register to vote in person at an EVC

June 23

Last day to vote in the Primary Election in person



Final Push Toward the Primary

continued from page 4

the pews. The candidates are stopping by community events, often with their children and spouses in tow, to connect with voters on a personal level.

Facebook, Instagram and TikTok pages are full of selfies, clever videos, and pointed commentary about opponents. Let's not forget the "endorsement alerts" proudly promoting support from elected officials, unions, and organizations in hopes of influencing voters.

There is never enough money in war chest, so campaigns continue to email and text appeals to "chip in" a few dollars to help achieve their fundraising goals.

Some voters are growing weary of the literature, emails and texts. Others like Janeen Brown enjoy the hustle and bustle. "I'm really getting excited," the Woodlawn resident said as she was observing all the signs in front of Double T Diner in Catonsville.

"With everything going on the national level, it seems like at least we have some control on the local level. There are a lot of good people on the ballot."

For its part, the Baltimore County Board of Elections has been busy planning and preparing for the election, doing everything from checking the machines, soliciting election judges and conducting surveys. Election Director Ruie Lavoie says her team has been in good spirits, navigating their responsibilities with weekly "Mindful Monday" or "Thoughtful Tuesday" team meetings and check-ins.

July 6 is the date the county certifies the election results, Lavoie said. Her goal is to stay on schedule with ballot canvassing after the election and complete all the audits including a new risk limiting audit. In the end, Lavoie said, "If we stayed on schedule, we met all our requirements, certified on time, and our results showed no variance in all the audits," she said she considers the election a successful one.

"I want voters to know that we honestly do care that every Baltimore County voter or eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote and vote," Lavoie said. "We try to go above and beyond to provide polling places that are accessible locations throughout the county. We've tried to make sure that we find good convenient locations for our ballot boxes because we want voters to have a good experience voting. So, we do whatever we can."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HAVE A POSITIVE VOTING EXPERIENCE

Are You Registered? To vote, you must be registered. Voter cards have been mailed, but you can request a replacement. Check your registration status online at voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/. Maryland offers same-day voting at polling places, or you can register to vote online before June 2 or do so in person at an early voting center or polling place.

When to Vote. Registered Democrats and Republicans can vote in person from June 11 through June 18, between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., at any of the 11 early voting centers (EVC) in Baltimore County. On the west side, the locations include Arbutus Recreation Center, Baltimore County Board of Elections in Owings Mills, Randallstown Community Center, Reisterstown Senior Center and Woodlawn Community Center. Remember that if you plan to vote in person on Primary Election Day on June 23, you must do so at your assigned polling place.

Independent voters and those affiliated with parties other than the Democratic and Republican parties will skip the Primary and vote in the General Election on Nov. 3. They will not receive a sample ballot.

The reason, according to Baltimore County Elections Director Ruie Lavoie, is that the county's only nonpartisan election, for the Board of Education, will not appear on the Primary Election ballot. This year, because the two highest vote getters advance to the General Election, and there are two or fewer running in each of the seven districts, there is no need for a Primary Election run-off. All candidates will compete in the General Election on Nov. 3.

The Board of Elections has sent post cards to the county's unaffiliated voters notifying independent voters that they will not have a primary election ballot. Lavoie said, "I think

this is probably one of the first times we didn't have an unaffiliated ballot."

Other Options to Vote. As of mid-May, more than 84,000 Baltimore County residents had requested mail-in ballots. Due to a vendor printing error, the State Board of Elections is reissuing ballots to voters who requested one before May 14. The mailing of replacement ballots, along with instructions, is to be complete by May 29.

There's still time for voters to request a mail-in ballot online at elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html

Completed ballots can be returned to the Baltimore County Board of Elections office or placed in an official drop box (see page 5) before 8 p.m. on June 23. If you use the U.S. Postal Service, the ballot must be postmarked on or before June 23 in the sealed return envelope. Due to changes in postal regulations, return the ballot early. If you're close to the deadline, you should get the stamp and a receipt at the retail window.

In-Person on Election Day. Go to your assigned polling place between 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on June 23. If you're in line by 8 p.m., you'll be able to vote.

Know Your District. Due to redistricting, councilmanic district boundaries have changed. It's important to verify your councilmanic district and learn about the candidates running to represent you.

You can review the sample ballot, which indicates the candidates in your district, as well as your registration status as party affiliation using the Maryland Voter Lookup tool at voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch.

Baltimore County Board of Elections

5 Crossing Way, Owings Mills 21117

Phone: 410-887-5700

Email: elections@baltimorecountymd.gov

Web: baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/elections

The
People's
Poll

How will you cast your vote in the Primary Election 2026?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early voting on June 11-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mail-in Ballot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Election Day on June 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't intend to vote. |

To cast your vote, visit nwvoicenews.com.



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BOATWRIGHT**
DEMOCRAT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
★★ **SHERIFF** ★★



ENDORSEMENTS

- Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 4
- Baltimore County Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 1311
- Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, District 44
- Delegate Aletheia McCaskill, District 44
- Delegate Sheila Ruth, District 44
- Delegate Eric Ebersole, District 44
- Senator Ben Brooks, District 10
- Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10
- Delegate Jennifer White Holland, District 10
- Candidate Robin Harvey, District 10
- Former Baltimore County Executive, Don Mohler

THE VISION

- Establish a 24- Hour Domestic Violence Unit
- Strengthen Community Partnerships
- Implement 21st Century Policing and updated training
- Upgrade technology
- Improve civil process management

ABOUT ME

- 25-Year Law Enforcement Veteran
- Graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command
- Graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Police Chief Executive Leadership Program, Penn State Police Executive Leadership Program, and FBI-LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute
- Statewide Leader Representing Over 20,000 Maryland Law Enforcement Officers
- Hall of Fame mentor and high school basketball coach
- Longtime Baltimore County Resident
- Father, and Grandfather
- Advocate for Public Safety Reform, Victims' Rights, Accountability, Transparency, and Community-Focused Policing
- Proven Record of Building Community Partnerships
- Champion for Victims of Crimes
- Ready to Modernize and Strengthen the Baltimore County Sheriff's Office

"I'm going to get the deputies out of the court house and into the community to help with the crime fight. I need your vote to do it." - CB

Early Voting Days: June 11 - 18, 2026
Election Day: June 23, 2026

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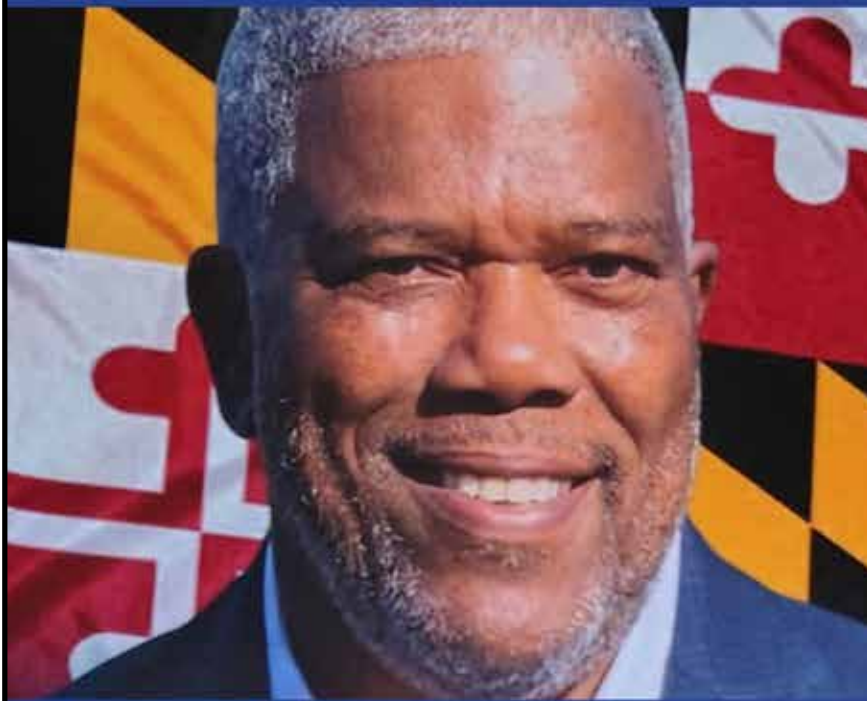


For more information go to my website boatwrightforsheriff.com or scan the QR code.

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Democrat, Baltimore County Council District 4



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A voice you can trust.
From this community.
For this community.
This isn't a stepping stone.
It's home.

EARLY VOTING JUNE 11-18
ELECTION DAY JUNE 23

BY AUTHORITY AARON BARNETT FOR THE PEOPLE HENRIETTA ALEXIS TREASURER



PHOTO: JANET ANDERSON

Randallstown Community Center is one of Baltimore County's 11 early voting centers and one of the busiest in the state of Maryland.

Primary Election Early Voting Sites

June 11-18, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

The Gubernatorial Primary Election is on Tuesday, June 23, and early voting begins Thursday, June 11, through Thursday, June 18. Anyone who is registered to vote can vote early 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at a designated early voting center in the jurisdiction in which they live.

There are 11 designated early voting centers in Baltimore County.

1. Arbutus Recreation Center | 865 Sulphur Spring Road
2. Baltimore County Board of Elections | 5 Crossing Way
3. Randallstown Community Center | 3505 Resources Drive
4. Reisterstown Senior Center | 12035 Reisterstown Road
5. Woodlawn Community Center | 2120 Gwynn Oak Avenue
6. Towson University | South Campus Pavilion – 1 S. Auburn
7. Honeygo Run Community Center | 9033 Honeygo Boulevard
8. Jacksonville Recreation Center | 3065 B Sweet Air Road
9. MD State Fairgrounds | Mosner Miller Building, 2200 York Road
10. Victory Villa Community Center | 404 Compass Road E
11. Watersedge Community Center | 7894 Dundalk Avenue

DID YOU KNOW?

You can register to vote at an Early Voting Center? **Learn more at elections.maryland.gov**

BALTIMORE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

'It's Any Man's Race' in Competitive Contest for County's Top Post

Baltimore County Executive Kathy Klausmeier will not seek election to the office she has held for the past two years. With no incumbent and a crowded field, political observers say turnout—particularly in high-participation areas—could ultimately determine the outcome.

Klausmeier became the first woman to serve as county executive after the seven-member County Council selected her to complete the term of Johnny Olszewski following his election to Congress. Her decision not to run has set the stage for a competitive contest among a diverse field of candidates.

Seven candidates are seeking to replace her, bringing a range of backgrounds that include military service, professions as attorneys and positions as managers, as well as a retired fire department division chief. Three of the contenders currently serve on the County Council.

As voters head to the polls in the 2026 gubernatorial primary election, they will have the opportunity to elect either the county's first Black executive or its first woman. The next executive will take office at a critical moment, as Baltimore County faces population decline and the accompanying loss of tax revenue.

Doni Glover, founder of BMoreNews.com, described the election as "one of the most consequential" in the county's history, citing both local stakes and broader national dynamics.

"Psychologically, for the Black community and for women, it's imperative [that people vote]," Glover said, pointing to heightened political tensions and concerns. "Considering the antics coming out of Pennsylvania Avenue, the white Christian nationalism evolving before us... When you see people convicted of the Jan. 6 insurrection are now ICE agents, shooting Americans dead in the streets. When you see a dismantling of democracy, let alone civil rights..."

Voters say their top concerns remain quality-of-life issues and core government services, including trash collection, road maintenance and public safety. Land-use decisions—such as proposals for housing developments, data centers, crematories and wind farms—are also drawing scrutiny. Longstanding concerns about redevelopment of aging malls and retail centers like Security Square Mall and Lutheran Station continue to shape the conversation. Voters

are also calling for greater transparency and accountability in government.

Baltimore County plays a significant role in statewide elections, influencing outcomes in races for governor, comptroller, attorney general and U.S. Senate. Within the county, political observers say the western region carries weight.

"I don't know if you can overstate the west side's importance," said a political strategist who requested anonymity due to ongoing work in state and national campaigns. "It's a high-density, high-turnout part of the county." The strategist pointed to the concentration of registered "super voters" in "priority" precincts, as well as the percentage of turnout in those areas, typically 40% or more.

Candidates have been actively campaigning and getting their message out through forums, media appearances and community events. Council members Julian Jones, Izzy Patoka and Pat Young have faced scrutiny over their records, including votes on pensions, compensation, development projects and the county budget.

Some voters remain undecided. A county employee from Parkville said experience alone will not determine the best candidate.

"Sometimes the person who has been entrenched in county government is not the best, and the person with little to no experience is not the best either," he said. "I haven't made

up my mind. The jury is still out." He added that criticism of current council members should be tempered by the complexity of governing. "It's easy to criticize from the outside when you don't have all the information," he said. "I wonder that if some of the candidates criticizing might have made the same decisions if they were in [the current council's] shoes."

Jones, a longtime firefighter and retired Anne Arundel County division chief, was elected to the council in 2014 and has served as chair four times. He points to his experience and leadership on affordable housing, while also opposing efforts to concentrate affordable housing initiatives in western Baltimore County. Jones has highlighted his role in projects such as Mill Station, which replaced Owings Mills Mall, and the nearby transit-oriented Metro Centre in Owings Mills.

Patoka, a community planner elected in 2018, represents District 2, which includes Owings Mills, Lochearn and Woodlawn. As council chair, he oversaw the expansion of the council from seven to nine members through a voter referendum. However, he has faced criticism over the redistricting process and allegations that map-drawing occurred behind closed doors.

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Candidates for County Executive speak at an NAACP forum in Randallstown. From left are District 1 Councilman Izzy Patoka, District 4 Councilman Julian, candidate and attorney Nick Stewart, District 4 Councilman Pat Young, program manager and candidate Kimberley Stansbury, and attorney and candidate Rob Daniels. Candidate Mansoor Shams, a Baltimore County outreach officer, is not pictured.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL

Open Seats, Redrawn Districts Attract Diverse Group of Candidates to 9 Council Races

Open seats, redrawn districts attract diverse group

A field of younger, more progressive and more diverse candidates is reshaping the race for nine seats on the Baltimore County Council, setting up a clear contrast between the current council members.

Nowhere is that shift more evident than on the county's west side, where 15 candidates are on the ballot. In four districts covering Catonsville, Owings Mills, Randallstown, Reisterstown, Windsor Mill and Woodlawn, the candidate field includes three twentysomethings, along with several women and Black and Latino contenders — a notable departure from the council's historical makeup.

For decades, the council has been dominated by men, most of them white. Redistricting in 2010 helped elect Black members such as Ken Oliver and Julian Jones, a four-time council chair. Still, only five women have ever served since the council was established in 1956 — including two, Cathy Bevins and Vicki Almond, who were both elected in 2010. It's been all men since 2018, when Almond lost her bid for County Executive.

The current election cycle reflects not just changing demographics, but structural change. In a 2024 referendum, voters approved expanding the seven-member council by two, setting off an at times contentious redistricting process that ended with some perplexingly redrawn councilmanic boundaries.

The push for expansion began with the Four More for Baltimore County initiative to add four seats to the council. Linda Dorsey-Walker, a seven-term member of the Democratic Central Committee member who is now running in the new District 3, created the Vote4More Baltimore County initiative.

Observers look forward to watching how

the new council works together. Democrat council members Julian Jones, Izzy Patoka and Pat Young have thrown their hats in the ring for County Executive, creating three open seats on the west side. At the same time, a wave of departures on the eastside is opening a path for newcomers. Several incumbents are stepping down or seeking higher office, leaving five districts without an incumbent

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW:
WILL THE NEWCOMERS BLEND IN? BE
INTIMIDATED? OR WILL THEY TAKE
BOLD ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE
COMMUNITY?

and guaranteeing a significantly reconfigured council.

Two councilman, Republicans Wade Kach (District 3) and Todd Crandell, announced they would not run for reelection.

Crandell of District 7 decided not to seek another term after an incident was publicized where police found him intoxicated with a loaded gun in his office.

Kach announced on May 7 he was retiring for health reasons, days before a bill to pull back legislation to double councilmembers' pensions. The bill, which ties the pension to compensation, was tacked on to the redistricting referendum passed by voters in 2024.

The District 3 Republican Central Committee has appointed the MAGA-aligned Nick

Mangione to replace Kach, and he was sworn in on June 2. Mangione is the cousin of Luigi Mangione, who is charged with the 2024 fatal shooting of a UnitedHealthCare CEO.

That leaves Republican David Marks and Democrat Mike Ertel on the ballot to be the council veterans. Both represent the east side.

Just as important as who is running is how they say they will govern. At candidate forums, many have pledged to end "councilmanic courtesy," the longstanding practice of deferring to the district member on zoning and development decisions. Instead, candidates say they would take a broader, countywide approach — particularly as housing affordability becomes an increasingly urgent issue.

The job itself is also being redefined. With the salaries set to double, most successful members will likely earn a significantly higher salary. Beginning in December 2026, council positions will become full time, with salaries increasing from \$69,000 to \$140,000. The council chair's salary will jump from \$77,000 to \$150,000.

Together, those changes — new faces, new rules and higher stakes — point to a council that could look and operate very differently in the years ahead.

The Candidates

In total, on the west side there are 14 Democrats, four Republicans running for County Council in the Primary Election. One independent candidate will be on the General Election ballot.

District 1

In the southwest district, including Catonsville,

continued on page 11



Shown at a political forum hosted by the NAACP Baltimore County branch in the Owings Mills Public Library are Baltimore County Council candidates (from left): Danita Tolson, Lawrence Williams, Makeda Scott, Tyrod Haynes, Linda Dorsey-Walker, Mark Brewster, Ruben Amaya, Tammy Soulama and Regg Hatcher.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES, continued from page 10

Lansdowne and Arbutus, the race is shaping up as a contest between **Paul Dongarro** and **Mandy Rimmell**, both of whom bring community connections and name recognition.

Other candidates include Democrat **N. Westcott V**, a military veteran and field training coordinator who lives in Arbutus, and Republican **Rheagan Kindle**. Independent **Joseph Hooe** will appear on the general election ballot.

District 2

In a district that includes Windsor Mill, Randallstown and Reisterstown, four Democrats are competing in a crowded primary. **Ruben Amaya**, a leader in state Democratic politics, has secured backing from several elected officials. **Danita Tolson**, a former NAACP Baltimore County president, is a health care educator and professor of nursing at a state university in Baltimore.

Lawrence Williams of Randallstown is a retired teacher and school administrator. He also founded and is executive director of organizations that exposes students to historically black colleges and universities.

Tammy Soulama rounds out the field.

District 3

The newly drawn district that encompasses Owings Mills, Greenspring Valley and Cockeysville has attracted a wide-ranging field. It looks to be the most competitive.

Mark Brewster is a management analyst with Baltimore County's Department of Health and Human Services. He lives in Owings Mills.

Linda Dorsey-Walker, an Owings Mills resident and a retired state and county program manager and hospital administrator, is serving her seventh term on the Democratic Central Committee for District 11. She likes to remind her fellow candidates in Facebook posts and political forums that they're running in a new territory thanks to her efforts to increase the number of council representatives.

Regg Hatcher, an elected Democratic Central Committee member for District 10, also lives in Owings Mills. A systems engineer, he works as a Department of Defense contractor.

Tyrod Haynes is a retired plasterer who lives in Owings Mills. He currently represents District

11A on the Democratic Central Committee and is a member of the Reisterstown-Owings Mills-Glyndon Coordinating Council.

Makeda Scott serves as co-chair of the Baltimore County Public Schools Equity Council and is a former elected member and vice chair of the Baltimore County Board of Education. She lives in Owings Mills.

District 4

The redrawn District 4 includes Lochearn, Woodlawn, Pikesville and Mays Chapel. The race will likely come down to two contenders.

Karson Kamenetz, son of the late former County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, is a law student at University of Maryland. He lives in Pikesville.

Aaron Barnett, a longshoreman, founded and serves as executive director of a nonprofit that mentors young people. A resident of Gwynn Oak, Barnett serves as president of Powhatan Farms Community Association. He is also a board member of NeighborSpace of Baltimore County. ■

ENDORSED BY

RUBEN AMAYA

DEMOCRAT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 2

Vote on June 23, 2026 | Early Voting: June 11-18, 2026

DISTRICT 10 UNITY TEAM:

SENATOR BENJAMIN BROOKS SR.	DELEGATE N. SCOTT PHILLIPS
DELEGATE JENNIFER WHITE HOLLAND	CANDIDATE ROBIN HARVEY

& MD SPEAKER EMERITA
ADRIENNE JONES

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Invest in our Schools
- ✓
Fight for Affordable Housing
- ✓
Eliminate Food Deserts
- ✓
Keep our Communities Safe

rubenamaya.org

BY AUTHORITY: RUBEN AMAYA FOR COUNCIL, DAVID MARGULIES, TREASURER

REDISTRICTING ADDS 2 MORE COUNTY COUNCIL SEATS, REDRAWS LINES OF REPRESENTATION

Will there be a shift in influence

The 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election will be the first time Baltimore County voters will cast ballots for representatives in nine councilmanic districts.

The reconfigured and renumbered districts take effect after the Nov. 3 General Election. The final map created two majority-Black areas, Districts 2 and 3; and the percentage of white and minorities is about evenly split in District 4. No majority-minority districts were established on the east side in Districts 5-9.

Voters are urged to take note since their councilmanic district may change.

One change, for example, involves Windsor Mill, which currently sits in District 1 but has been redrawn into District 2 with parts of Woodlawn and Reisterstown. Owings Mills and Randallstown are in the new District 3, but the current District 3 covers the north county.

Four years ago, an initiative to increase the council was gaining momentum. The 4More Baltimore County was spearheaded by Linda

Dorsey-Walker, a community leader who is running in the new District 3.

The effort to add four seats was not successful but the idea of more representation was. In November 2024 voters approved a ballot question to expand the council from seven to nine members. The referendum raised hopes that more Black, Latino and Asian candidates would be motivated to run for office. They were. This year's field is more diverse, and dozens across the county will be on the ballot.

DISTRICT 1

Includes: Arbutus, Catonsville, Halethorpe, Landsdowne
Population 71,040: White 60.7%, Black 16.7%, Asian 11.3%, Hispanic/Latino 8.6%, Other 2.7%



DISTRICT 2

Includes: Randallstown, Reisterstown, Windsor Mill, Woodlawn. Population 69,773: Black 55.1%, White 27.3%, Asian 7.1%, Hispanic/Latino 7.9%, Other 2.6%



Paul Dongarra
(Democrat)



Mandy Rimmell
(Democrat)



N. Wescott V
(Democrat)



Rheagan Kindle
(Republican)



Joseph Hooe
(Unaffiliated)



Ruben Amaya
(Democrat)



Tammy Soulama
(Democrat)



Danita Tolson
(Democrat)



Lawrence Williams
(Democrat)

Not pictured: James Amos (R)

TATION

fluence?

The referendum also established a redistricting commission to make recommendations on the boundaries and sparked a debate over race, political power and what constitutes fair representation.

Both the council and the commission, chaired by Eric Rockel, held multiple public-input sessions. In their deliberations, the commission sought to balance federal voting-rights protections while respecting communities of interest and observing traditional redistricting principles.

Some council hearings went on for four hours, giving dozens a say. There have been charges of back-room dealings to secure Republican votes, efforts to carve the districts in a way to protect power and to give a potential candidate an advantage or disadvantage candidate.

For many advocates, the expansion was about strategically creating a council map that more accurately reflects a county that has undergone significant demographical change over the past decades. They insisted that

representation is best achieved by drawing districts where Black and minority voters can reliably elect candidates who look like them.

Some recommendations were specific, like the "Woodlawn Map C" aimed at keeping Woodlawn intact within a single district.

Others argued for a race-neutral approach, commenting that a more effective strategy is to disperse those voters across more districts to broaden political influence.

continued on page 16

DISTRICT 3

Includes: Owings Mills, Randallstown, Reisterstown
Population 70,554: Black 55%, White 29.4%,
Hispanic/Latino 7.5%, Asian 5.3%, Other 2.8%



Mark Brewster
(Democrat)



Linda Dorsey-Walker
(Democrat)



Regg Hatcher Jr.
(Democrat)



Tyrod Haynes
(Democrat)

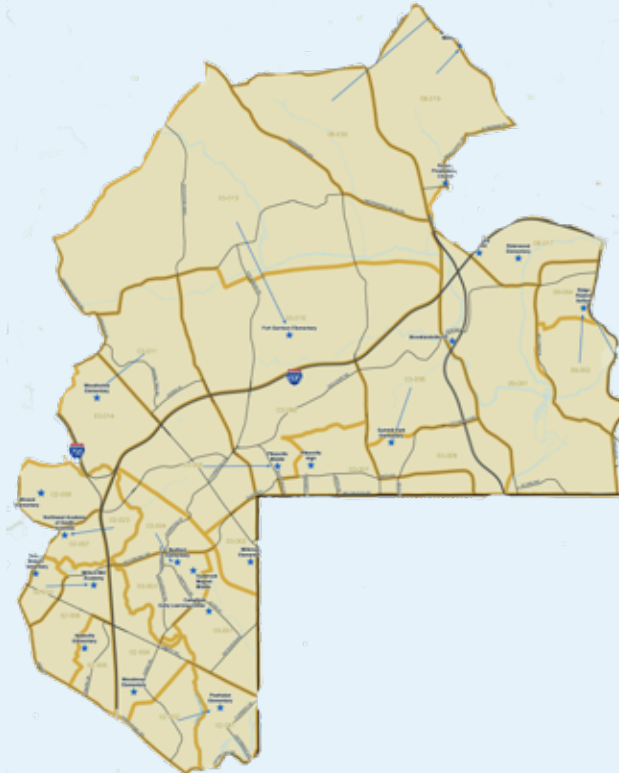


Makeda Scott
(Democrat)

Not pictured: Chike Anyanwu (R)

DISTRICT 4

Includes: Lochearn, Mays Chapel, Pikesville, Woodlawn
Population 70,885: Black 45.1%, White 44%,
Hispanic/Latino 4.7%, Asian 3.4%, Other 2.8%



Aaron Barnett
(Democrat)



Karson Kamenetz
(Democrat)



Gary Schuman
(Republican)

STATE SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The District 10 Race to Represent Randallstown-Reisterstown Heats Up

State legislative elections for the Maryland General Assembly are often ho hum, but the race for the House of Delegates in District 10 is shaping up to be an interesting one. Candidates' interest intensified when Democrat Adrienne Jones announced in December 2025 that she would not seek another term as Speaker of the House, the chamber's most influential position. As Speaker Emeritus, Jones later filed to seek an eighth term as a delegate but then withdrew her candidacy on Feb. 27.

Her decision and pending departure leave an open seat in the majority-black District 10 that spans from Reisterstown to Halethorpe and includes Windsor Mill, Randallstown and parts of Owings Mills.

Senator Ben Brooks is the sole District 10 candidate for Senate, and his colleagues seeking reelection to the House are Delegates N. Scott Phillips, an attorney and chair of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus, and Jennifer Holland-

White, a policy and community engagement director.

Joining their Unity Team slate is Robin Harvey, a social worker and former member of the Baltimore County Board of Education. Harvey entered the race, at Jones' urging, after resigning from the school board in February.

Also in the mix are perennial candidates Michael Brown of Randallstown, Jay Jalisi of Reisterstown, and T. George Newton of Reisterstown. All are Democrats including Newton, a longtime Republican who switched party affiliations in time for this election.

He's Back!

Jalisi is waging a campaign to return to the legislature. He previously served two terms as a delegate before losing a bid in 2020 for U.S. Congress and in 2022 for State Senate. Rep. Kweisi Mfume won the congressional seat and Senator Ben Brooks won the Senate race.

Voters are being reminded with direct

mailers that Jalisi's legislative tenure was marked by controversy. Following reports of a toxic workplace, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee held a hearing in which staff and other witnesses alleged bullying, abusive behavior, and failure to compensate employees for as many as 100 hours of overtime.

At the committee's recommendation, the legislature formally reprimanded Jalisi in March 2019 and he was directed to take anger management and workplace civility classes and not hire paid staff until he had done so.

His challenges have extended beyond Annapolis. In recent years, Jalisi's real estate company has faced lawsuits from creditors and tenants.

In addition to his House campaign, Jalisi is seeking another term to represent District 10 on the Democratic Central Committee. His prospects may be buoyed by a gender-balance rule that limits the number of winners to no

continued on page 15

Mandy Remmell
DEMOCRAT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

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FROM OUR **COMMUNITY**, FOR OUR **COMMUNITY**

By Authority Friends of Mandy Remmell Kuhns, Treasurer Michael Mohler

continued from page 14

more than half of the same gender. Voters can choose up to six candidates—up to three women and up to three men. With five women and two men including Jalisi in the race, this means only three of the five females, but both men can win.

The Other Districts

Elsewhere in the northwest, District 11 Sen. Shelly Hettleman is the sole candidate for Senate. In District 11A (Owings Mills), Del. Cheryl Pasteur faces a challenge from Nico Stark, CEO of a nonprofit that promotes housing for persons with mental health needs. In the predominately Pikesville District 11B, Delegates Jon Cardin and Dana Stein have one Republican challenger, John Gordon.

Similarly, in District 44, which includes Woodlawn and Catonsville, Sen. Charles Sydnor is running without opposition. On the House side, District 11B incumbents Sheila Ruth and Aletheia McCaskill are up against three challengers. They include Democrats Bishop Barry Chapman, a Democratic Central Committee member and entrepreneur, and Sherry Scipio, also an entrepreneur, as well as Republican R. Domonic Martin.

In District 44A, incumbent Eric Ebersole is up against Republican Chuck Linton. ■



PHOTO: GEORGE WHITE

Candidates and volunteers meet for a campaign event in Randallstown, which was attended by state, local and congressional representatives. From left are Delegate Aleithea McCaskill, Senator Ben Brooks, Speaker Emeriti Adrienne Jones, Delegate Jennifer White Holland (with baby Ryleigh), Delegate Sheila Ruth, Delegate Michele Guyton, Delegate N. Scott Phillips and candidate Robin Harvey.

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Additional instructions will be included in the replacement mail-in ballot packet, so please read through it carefully!

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- 4 Randallstown High School Graduate
- 5 Morgan State University Graduate, B.S. in Electrical & Computer Engineering
- 6 Johns Hopkins University Graduate, Masters in Systems Engineering

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STRENGTHENING POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND BOOSTING CRIME PREVENTION.
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INCREASING ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS AND AFFORDABLE FOOD OPTIONS IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD.

Authorized by Friends of Regg Hatcher, Treasurer Cheryl Hatcher

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County Executive Race

continued from page 9

Young, a former state delegate and Iraq War veteran, was elected to represent District 1 in 2022. He previously served as Towson University's first director of veteran services and is the only candidate in the race using public campaign financing.

Nick Stewart, a corporate attorney and resident of Catonsville, presents himself as an outsider. He served a year on the Board of Education in 2015 when he was appointed to complete a board member's term. The year prior, Stewart ran unsuccessfully for House of Delegates. He is a cofounder of We the People – Baltimore County, good governance advocacy group.

Mansoor Shams, a Marine veteran and county recreation and parks official, has focused

his campaign on community engagement. He has not previously held elected office.

On the Republican side, Patrick Dyer, a Timonium-based financial services professional, brings more than three decades of industry experience. Kimberley Stansbury, an office manager for a physical therapy practice, is the only woman in the race.

Rob Daniels, an assistant attorney general, is running as an independent candidate.

Voter preferences are beginning to take shape. For Randallstown resident Willie Dash, Julian Jones is the best choice. "I'm looking at [candidates'] past records, and Julian Jones has done an excellent job in representing us," said Dash. An officer at the Liberty Road Senior Center in Randallstown,

Dash added the Jones has been responsive to seniors' requests and listened to their need for a larger center. "He's always done what he says he's going to do. Because of that and the other things he's done in the county, Julian Jones is the best guy that I've seen for county executive."

Windsor Mill resident Bruce Staudinger said he plans to vote for Stewart, impressed with a presentation the candidate made at a town hall. "Nick Stewart has great ideas, for example he wants more community outreach programs and has ideas about Liberty Road." Staudinger said he switched to Democrat after being a lifelong Republican.

Catonsville resident Katie Malone is backing Pat Young. While an aide to the late Congressman

Elijah Cummings in his Catonsville office, Malone said she was able to observe how elected officials interact with constituents and solve their problems. "That's what I'm looking for in the next County Executive, and that's why I'm voting for Pat Young," she said.

A mother of four children in Baltimore County Public Schools, Malone said improvements in the school system, county infrastructure and zoning process are areas she's hoping the new county administration will tackle.

With Democrats holding a strong voter registration advantage in the county, the primary election winner is likely to become the next Baltimore County executive after the Nov. 3 general election. The position pays \$192,000 annually.

Robin HARVEY
House of Delegates
10th Legislative District

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY

- Rep. Johnny Olszewski, US Congress, 2nd District
- Del. Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker Emerita, Maryland House of Delegates
- Don Mohler, Former Baltimore County Executive

Logos for endorsing organizations: Maryland State AFL-CIO, Progressive Maryland, Sierra Club, Maryland LCY, House Demand Action, CASA in Action, LiUNA!

A STRONG COALITION. A STRONGER MARYLAND.

By Authority: Coalition for Robin Harvey, Tina King, Treasurer

Redistricting Paves Way for New Races

continued from page 13

And at least one speaker voiced concerns that redistricting her Lochearn community in with Woodlawn might cause her home property values to decline, her insurance rates to rise, and crime to increase.

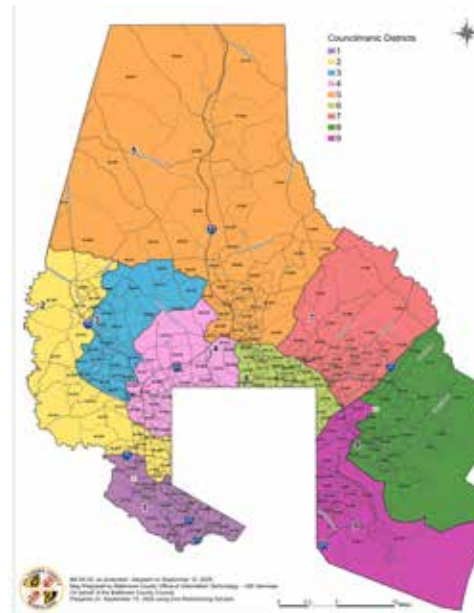
The commission labored for weeks, only to have the council set aside its final report and create its own maps. After considering multiple versions and voting on several amendments, the council introduced still another map to the dismay and frustration of the elected officials and community members who were present and listening to the livestream.

The council has been largely male and mostly white since 1956 when it was established. It took redistricting efforts to increase the odds for women and minority candidates.

The election will determine if the redistricting met at least one of its goals, which is to diversify the council. In the past 70 years, only five women have served on the council. It also took redistricting in 2001 to create a majority-black district to elect the first black councilperson from Baltimore

County and the first black state delegates and senators.

The only blacks to serve on the Baltimore County Council have been Ken Oliver and Julian Jones, both of District 4.



County Council Bill 47-24 expanded the number of councilmanic districts to nine, as shown. Source: Baltimore County Office of Information Technology GIS Service.

Publisher's Column: Don't Squander Your Power

continued from page 2

first Latino or youngest candidate. After all, I think for most people, electing someone they believe is experienced, qualified, and a reliable community partner is what counts, one who won't "switch up" when they get in office.

There's a lot on the line. When we put our election in the context of the national environment, where redistricting efforts, particularly in southern states, and judicial decisions, such as the ruling by U.S. Supreme Court, are disenfranchising voters and chipping away at voter rights, our duty and our right to vote becomes even more critical.

Baltimore County is Maryland's third most populous jurisdiction, behind Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Yes, we are losing population, according to the U.S. Census, but roughly 856,000 people still call the county home.

In Baltimore County, thanks to redistricting and an additional two seats on the council, a more diverse group of candidates are running. On the east side, we also have more women and people of color running for council. The question is who is best to represent our

Baltimore County communities.

We must vote FOR something and someone, not just AGAINST something and someone. Don't squander your vote for the okey doke.

I ask: Will you give in to the efforts to suppress the vote and sit this election out? Will you take a stand for what our communities need? Will you complain that your vote doesn't count? Do you understand that our vote represents our voice? Will you take the time to research the candidates and consider relevant points of view? Will you vote for the candidate you believe to be in your best interest and not theirs?

The lyrics of a popular song by the Undisputed Truth warns us that "smiling faces sometimes pretend to be your friend." Some candidates talk a good game (smile on face, pat on back) to get our votes, and unfortunately we fall for the okey doke.

Will you allow yourself to be swayed and taken in by a friendly pat on the back, slick and clever messaging, and straight-up untruths?


Some of us sometimes want to connect with and be supported by someone who may

not always be in our best interest. But most important, vote! Sometimes choosing not to vote and low voter turnout ends up being an advantage for people we don't want or need to represent us. As a westside resident, I have my choices, you have yours. I urge you to take a stand, pick a side and vote by mail, during early voting or on election day. I hope you will consider this special issue of the Northwest Voice as a valuable information resource.

As a note, please know that comments and views should not be taken as an endorsement on behalf of myself or the Northwest Voice, or as a stand against someone. ■

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JUNE 11-18
PRIMARY ELECTION
DAY JUNE 23**

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-The Baltimore Sun

"Violent Crime Drops in Baltimore County"
-WBALTV 11 News

"Arrest Clearance Rates Climb"
-baltimorecountymd.gov

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School Board Prepares to Replace Fourth BCPS Leader in 9 Years

Voters and candidates alike list improving education as one of their top priorities. With Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent Myriam Rogers retiring effective July 1, and the central administration in transition, who will lead Maryland's third largest school system of 110,000 students and the 20,000 teachers and staff?

Rogers was a deputy superintendent at the time she was chosen from four out-of-state finalists in 2023 to become superintendent. Throughout her tenure she oversaw gains in student test scores, construction of new schools, and implemented student safety and mental health programs.

On Feb. 26, the day after the board narrowly passed the \$2.5 billion BCPS budget for the upcoming fiscal year, Rogers abruptly announced that she was stepping down after three years in a four-year contract.

A search that is now underway marks the fourth time in nine years the system will select a superintendent. The Board of Education, which is responsible for hiring the superintendent, selected Ray and Associates LLC to assist in the national search for the new superintendent. The lowa-based executive leadership firm also led the search for Rogers' predecessor, Darryl Williams, who served one four-year term.

The board which is looking to interview the superintendent finalists on June 17, according to a BCPS press release.

To gather input, BCPS held separate sessions in May for community members and



Superintendent Myriam Rogers departs her role effective July 1. Photo: BCPS

staff at Milford Mill Academy, Red Run Elementary School, and George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, and a virtual session.

In addition to representatives from employee unions, school system-affiliated organizations, and students, Ray & Associates will randomly select 15 community members to participate in the interview process.

Residents interested in serving on the panel may register between June 8 and 3 p.m. on June 15. A confirmation will be sent to those selected and those not selected for the panel. Registration to participate will be through an online registration form posted on the BCPS superintendent search web page at bcps.org.

A final decision on the next superintendent is expected before the end of June.

Visit the [BCPS SEARCH COMMITTEE PAGE](http://WWW.BCPS.ORG) at bcps.org

Commission Moves to Fill School Board Vacancies

The Board of Education will have serious policy, budget and hiring decisions on its agenda.

Top on the list of priorities is selecting a superintendent to replace Myriam Rogers, who is leaving that role at the end of the school year.

Depending on the timing, board members expected to be appointed by the governor in the upcoming weeks may have a say.

At full strength, the 12-person school board includes seven elected representatives from each councilmanic district, four members appointed by the governor, and one student member. However, the board is in transition.

Six sitting members are seeking reelection and because no race drew more than two candidates, none will be on the Primary Election ballot, and all will advance to the General Election. Meanwhile, four appointed members have terms that do not expire until next year.

Two vacancies are in the process of being filled, and student representation is also in transition.

Foresight Ogungbe, a senior at Eastern Technology High School in the academy of health professions magnet, will serve as the student member until next month. Then Claire Jabaji, a junior and at George Washington Carver, assumes the role July 1.

Three at-large members appointed in 2023 round out the board and will provide continuity until their terms end in 2027.

Felicia Stolusky of Owings Mills, who taught in BCPS for 19 years, is in her first term. Tiffany Frempong, a Parkville resident and chair of the Northeast Area Education Committee, and Reisterstown resident Emory Young, a former PTA Council first appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan president in 2017 to represent District 2 and then by Gov. Wes Moore, also serve.

Unopposed Candidates

On the west side of the county, a key race is taking shape. In District 1 former board member Lisa Mack is looking to return to office. Mack won election in 2018 and resigned in 2022, citing health concerns.

Also in the race is Candace Logan-Washington, a research and evaluation consultant. Both live in Catonsville and are self-employed.

Board chair Jane Litcher in District 2 (Pikesville, Woodlawn, Reisterstown), who retired from BCPS in 2021 as an executive director after 37 years with BCPS, and Brenda Savoy, a former English teacher, assistant principal, managing principal, and adjunct college professor who represents District 4 (Randallstown, Owings Mills, Reisterstown), are running unopposed. Three-term member Julie Henn of Perry Hall in District 5, an information technology professional who works for Community College of Baltimore County, also faces no challenger.

Contested Races

In District 3 (northern Baltimore County) Maggie Domanowski, a Baldwin resident who has been active in the PTA and youth sports, is being opposed by Kelli McClelland, an educator who worked as a special education teacher in Baltimore City and served as a BCPS volunteer. The board censured Domanowski for an exchange with Superintendent Rogers in 2025, but the Maryland State Department of Education overturned their decision.

In District 6, Christina Pumphrey, a Parkville resident and former board vice chair, has Darren Badillo as a challenger. Two-term board member and retired teacher Rod McMillion is facing Stacey McNish, a coordinator of services for individuals with disabilities in District 7 (Essex/Middle River).

Controversy in Filling Vacancies

Robin Harvey, an elected District 1 representative, resigned in February to run for the House of Delegates, and Tiara Booker-Dwyer, stepped down last August to accept a position out of state.

As a result, the 18-member Baltimore County Board of Education Nominating Commission was tasked with finding replacements. After meeting and interviewing nine candidates, the commission sent three recommendations to the Gov. Wes Moore to fill the at-large seat: Autrese Thornton, an education consultant and active Randallstown community member, Jason Noel and Kathleen Cernik.

The process to fill the District 1 seat became bogged in controversy. Catonsville resident Peter Fitzgerald was the sole applicant. However, the commission failed to secure enough votes to advance him. A public outcry that the commission's

actions were unfairly leaving the district without representation, along with word from the Governor's Office directing the commission to send at least two names for consideration, as required by law, resulted in the commission reversing course. Fitzgerald was nominated, and Scott Jenkins, who had supported his nomination, ultimately resigned as chairman.

If appointed, Fitzgerald will serve until December 2026, and the at-large board member will serve until December 2028.

Compensation Changes

Currently, school board members receive \$7,500 annually in compensation, and the student member receives the same amount to go toward higher education costs. Effective July 1, 2026, school board members will earn \$16,500, with the chair receiving an additional \$1,000. The student member will get \$10,000 for higher education costs.

ICYMI NEWS ROUNDUP

Moratorium Pauses Proposal for Woodlawn Data Center — For Now

Plans to construct a data center complex in Woodlawn must be put on pause, as a result of legislation adopted by the Baltimore County Council to halt any approvals for data centers at least temporarily.

Under the moratorium, Baltimore County cannot green-light any new data center development plans or zoning petitions until after a review process. The Department of Planning must study the potential impacts, including noise, energy and water usage, as well as report on any economic benefits, appropriate locations for the facilities, zoning classifications, and policies to mitigate the increased demand for utilities.

To collect community feedback, the planning board held a public hearing on May 21, where residents voiced widespread concern, particularly about noise, the environmental impact, and higher energy bills. The board is expected to release a draft report in July, followed by additional public meetings. A final report is due by Oct. 1.

Under the proposal by Security Land and Development LP, a 150-megawatt data center complex—using enough power to serve roughly 80,000 homes—would be built on the now-vacant 42-acre site at the former Security West complex. The property at 1500 Woodlawn Drive was once leased to the Social Security Administration but after the



By the time a December community meeting was held on a proposed data center at Security West on Woodlawn Drive, the former site of some Social Security Administration offices, the buildings had been razed, leaving just the sign.

employees vacated the buildings in 2023, they have since been razed.

The project was to include a five-acre land donation to Baltimore Gas and Electric for a new electrical substation and acquisition of the nearby Rodeway Inn on Whitehead Road.

At the time, construction had been expected to begin as early as June 2026.

The Woodlawn project reflects a broader national trend, as data centers — some located on sprawling campuses and housing vast networks of servers and computers, and others tucked into business complexes — proliferate

to meet surging demand for artificial intelligence, streaming services and social media.

Virginia, home to more than 600 data centers, has earned the nickname “Data Center Alley.” Maryland currently has 53 such facilities, including 14 in the Baltimore metropolitan area and at least two in Baltimore County. Frederick has the most data centers in Maryland.

Community concern about data centers appeared to first surface in December 2025, when the legislative District 44 delegation—led by Senator Charles Sydnor and Delegates Sheila Ruth and

Aletheia McCaskill—hosted an informational meeting at Woodlawn High School.

The state lawmakers, who represent Woodlawn and Catonsville, called for greater transparency and robust community engagement, emphasizing that any proposed data center must be thoroughly evaluated for its potential impact on public health, the environment, infrastructure and overall quality of life. Some 100 residents turned out to learn about the proposal, ask questions and voice concerns.

Advocacy groups including the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Nature Forward, the Office of the People’s Counsel, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24 and the Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition also weighed in, offering a range of perspectives on the issue.

County Council members had quietly approved zoning language restricting data centers to areas east of Pulaski Highway and south of Liberty Road—effectively making Woodlawn a target for such development. Amid mounting opposition, the council reversed course.

Other local jurisdictions are also taking action. Howard County recently paused new data center development, while Harford County has enacted a permanent ban.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

News Roundup

Education

Congratulations to the approximately 7,000 seniors graduating from Baltimore County Public Schools. Graduation ceremonies conclude June 5.

BCPS Recognitions

Baltimore County Public Schools

honored several educators and staff for their contributions. Allison Benkovic, a Grades 3–5 English Language Development teacher at Chadwick Elementary School in Windsor Mill, was named Teacher of the Year. Joaquin Prudent, a school resource officer serving

seven schools in the southwest district, was named Elementary School Resource Officer of the Year. Anne Casele of Woodlawn High School was named School Counselor of the Year.

Mental Health Support

BCPS, in partnership with Ray

NEWS ROUND-UP: Budgets, Renovations, Education

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Lewis and several nonprofit organizations, is launching the Rising Together Schoolwide Mental Health Screening Program. The initiative will be offered in 15 schools and will provide confidential screenings for students ages 8–18 to identify depression, anxiety, and other risk factors early. Participating schools include Dogwood, Featherbed Lane, Hebbville, and Johnnycake elementary schools; Southwest Academy; Woodlawn Middle; and Woodlawn High School.

New Budget Approved

On May 21, the Baltimore County Council approved a \$4.96 billion budget as submitted by County Executive Katharine Klausmeier, without changes. The fiscal year 2027 budget takes effect July 1.

Inspector General Appointment Rejected

As Inspector General Kelly Madigan's five-year term expired, County Executive Katharine Klausmeier nominated Khadija Walker, setting off a contentious process. Madigan publicly criticized the decision not to reappoint her, while several council members objected to Walker as her replacement. Typically the council approves the nominations with glowing remarks and smiles. In a rare move, the council rejected the nomination after closely scrutinizing the candidate's qualifications, residency, and commute. Pat Young and Julian Jones voted against the motion to keep Madigan as IG for different reasons. Klausmeier said she would make no other nominations, resulting in Madigan remaining in the role.

Months later, Madigan has accepted a position in Howard County, and her successor is expected to step down, leaving Baltimore County without a permanent inspector general.

Crematory Proposals in Randallstown

Two funeral home operators have applied to build crematories along Liberty Road in Randallstown. Vaughn Green Funeral Services proposes adding a crematory at its existing location, while Wylie Funeral Homes seeks to convert an adjacent building.

Community opinion is divided. Some residents support expanding services at locally owned Black businesses rather than relying on facilities outside the area, while others have raised environmental concerns. The Maryland Department of the Environment will determine whether the proposals meet state standards.

Library Leadership Change

The Baltimore County Public Library system remains without a permanent CEO following the December departure of Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, who had led the system since 2021 and

was its first Black and Latina chief executive.

Her exit followed a controversial decision to eliminate 14 part-time librarian positions as part of a long-term staffing plan. After criticism over how the decision was handled, the positions were reinstated, and Alcántara-Antoine departed. The library board acknowledged the process lacked transparency and respect for staff.

Woodlawn Library Renovation

A \$22 million, two-year project to expand and renovate the Woodlawn Library is underway. The facility will become a two-story building, incorporating space formerly occupied by the Woodlawn Health Center, which has relocated to Security Square Mall.

The upgraded library will include a recording studio, expanded meeting and conference spaces, and dedicated areas for adults, teens, and children. The branch is temporarily operating at 6660 Security Boulevard, Suite 13.

Security Square Mall Redevelopment

Efforts to redevelop Security Square Mall continue years after the county began seeking public input through its "Reimagine Security Square" initiative. Baltimore County has acquired 39 acres of the property, including the former Sears and Macy's sites.

Although events such as Universoul Circus and car shows still draw visitors, the mall continues to decline. The county and Sec Square Holding issued a request for proposals last year and received two submissions. Officials expect to begin negotiations with a selected developer and finalize an agreement by Aug. 1.

New Library and Recreation Center Planned

A vacant retail site at the corner of Rolling and Liberty roads, formerly home to Ollie's Bargain Outlet and Shoppers Warehouse, is slated for redevelopment into a 90,000-square-foot combined library and recreation center.

County officials say the project will serve as a hub for community revitalization, offering expanded opportunities for education, wellness, and programming. Some residents have advocated incorporating an expanded Liberty Senior Center into the plan. The project is supported by state and county funding.

Store Closings

Grocery Outlet has closed its Catonsville and Owings Mills locations, while its Milford Mill Shopping Center store, which opened last August, remains open. The shopping center also includes a Royal Farms and a liquor store that opened in July. The area has recently lost several retailers, including Value City Furniture, Joann, and Party City.

New Fire Station in Catonsville

Local officials have broken ground on a \$21.6 million fire station to replace Catonsville Fire Station 4. The new facility will be built on a six-acre site at 736 Edmondson Ave., formerly occupied by a funeral home.

The 25,685-square-foot station will include five apparatus bays, separated living and work areas, an upgraded alerting system, and community meeting space. It is designed to achieve LEED Silver certification and will feature solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations.

Rockdale Park Improvements

Baltimore County officials broke ground in March on the first phase of improvements to Rockdale Park in Windsor Mill. The project aims to expand recreational options, improve accessibility, and address drainage issues.

Phase one includes three accessible pickleball courts, an accessible basketball court, and drainage improvements in the community garden. The project will also add new trees, plantings, walkways, benches, bike racks, and a drinking fountain.

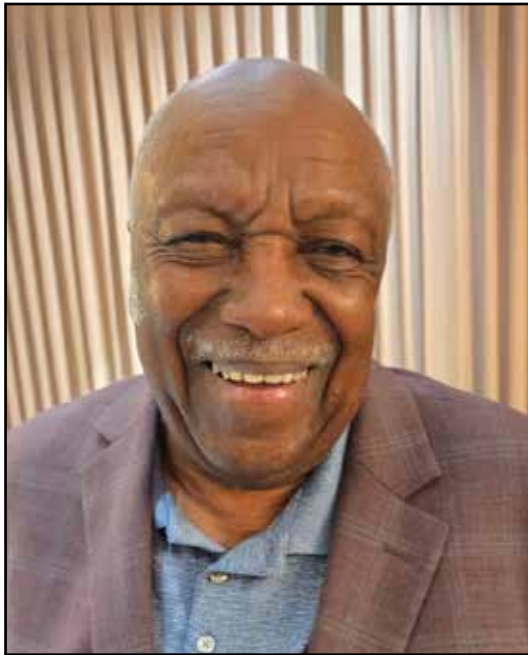
Existing features—including the pavilion, playground, and community garden—will be preserved, while the current ball field will be replaced with new courts. An accessible pathway will connect the park to nearby neighborhoods.



Top: County Executive Katharine Klausmeier and county officials break ground at Rockdale Park. Below: The new Woodlawn library will accommodate two stories of space.



THOUGHTS FROM SUPERVOTERS



**WILLIE DASH,
RANDALLSTOWN, ON
VOTING**

I will probably vote in person during early voting. And when I vote, it will be for Julian Jones for county executive. I have been voting every election since I was about 18 years old.



**CARLA TUCKER,
WINDSOR MILL, ON VOTING**

I used to vote in person. But since they started mail-in balloting, I complete the ballot and personally take it to the drop box during early voting at the polling place so I can watch the polls on TV on Election Day. There is only one election I missed. I left the Democratic Party one year to become an independent in my 20s not knowing independents could not vote in the primary election. When I went to the poll to vote and was told I had to wait until the general election, I told him "You will never take my right to vote away again. I changed back to Democrat because they align more with my principles.



**KATIE MALONE, CATONSVILLE, ON
PRIORITIES**

I'd like to see the next county executive focus on zoning issues, improvement of the school system and transparency in budgetary issues. We also need improvement of our infrastructure, particularly county roads and walkability. I like how walkable Catonsville is and it would benefit the county to have more walkability for people who may not want to drive everywhere. I support Pat Young.

Scenes from around the community



Shazia Shah, a candidate for Democratic Central Committee for District 44B, with her husband Imram, and other volunteers.



PHOTO: CHARLES SYDNOR FACEBOOK

U.S. Congressman Johnny Olszewski takes a break with members of the District 44 team, Del. Sheila Ruth, Sen. Charles Sydnor and Del. Aletheia McCaskill, Democratic Central Committee members, volunteers and candidate for office.



PHOTO: GEORGE WHITE

Roland Patterson, president of the NAACP Baltimore County Chapter, and Danita Tolson, former president, at a community forum.

Happenings Around the Community

Summer is around the corner and the activity are picking up in Baltimore County.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Annual Woodlawn Juneteenth Festival. The Security Woodlawn Business Association festival will be held Friday, June 19, 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Woodlawn Memorial Park, 1936 Woodlawn Drive in Woodlawn. There will be youth activities, prizes local vendors, and music.

Juneteenth Community Event. Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will hold this event on Saturday, June 20, from noon to 3 p.m. at Liberty Court Shopping Center, 8660 Liberty Rd. in Randallstown. The festivities will include dance, music, food and vendors.

Afro Cultural Festival. Hosted by the Five Star Women of Color, this free event will be held Saturday, June 27, from noon to 6 p.m. at New Town High School, 4931 New Town Blvd, in Owings Mills. It will showcase African heritage and feature a community plant swap, live performances, a vendor marketplace, food trucks, wellness sessions and an interactive youth and family zone.

Cultural Festival. Save the date for the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival on Saturday, Sept. 19, starting at 10 a.m. at 400 Washington Ave. in Towson.

FARMERS MARKETS

In addition to the usual offerings of fresh produce, some of the markets feature jewelry, apparel, crafts and homemade goods.



PHOTO: CARYN SAGAL

New Location for Pikesville Farmers Market

The Pikesville Farmers Market operates Tuesdays through Nov. 24, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Pikesville Armory, 640 Reisterstown Road. In addition to the usual offerings of fresh

produce, jewelry and apparel and crafts, the market will feature an expanded apparel area and more food trucks. The larger footprint will accommodate 50 vendors. It will have rest rooms and more dedicated parking. The market, hosted by the Greater Baltimore Chamber of Commerce, originated at Pikesville Library parking lot, moved to Office Depot (current site of Market Maven) and had operated at Pomona Square for the past decade.

Catonsville Farmers Market

The Christian Temple, 5820 Edmondson Ave., Catonsville, Wednesdays, through Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to noon.

Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market

15 Mellor Rd., Catonsville, Sundays, through Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. Hosted by Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce

Northwest Chamber Farmers Market

(also called Owings Mills Community Farmers Market), Hilton Garden Inn-Owings Mills, 4200 Owings Mills Blvd., Wednesdays, June 10 to Oct. 14, 3 to 7 p.m.

Reisterstown Farmers Market

120 Main St., in front of Franklin Middle School, Reisterstown. Sundays, June 9 to Sept. 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Hosted by Reisterstown Improvement Association

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy live performances around the county. Bring your own chairs, purchase food and support any vendors the events may have. Get schedules and details on the event or host's social media.

Liberty Live! returns on Fridays, June 26, July 24, and Aug. 21, 6 to 9 p.m., at 8212 Liberty Road (formerly Ollie's/Shoppers location) in Windsor Mill. Greater Randallstown Community Development Organization is the sponsor.

Music on Main Street, the 10-week concert series, is being hosted by the Reisterstown Improvement Association on Fridays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. through Aug. 21 at Franklin Middle School, 10 Cockeys Mill Rd. in Reisterstown.

Frederick Road Fridays. This concert series is held at 15 Mellor Ave. in Catonsville from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. June 5 through Aug. 28.

The Lurman Woodland Theatre Concert series

takes place Saturday and Sundays starting June 6-7 and runs through Aug. 29-30 at 425 Bloomsbury Ave. in Catonsville.

Foundry Row's Twilight Summer Concert Series

kicks off June 11 and run Thursdays through Aug. 13, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 10100 Reisterstown Road in Owings Mills.



School Board Meetings

Upcoming meetings of the Baltimore County Board of Education are June 9, July 14, Aug. 11 and 25, 6:30 p.m. at the board's Greenwood campus, Building E, Room 114, 6901 N. Charles St. in Towson. The originally scheduled June 23 and July 28 meetings were cancelled and may potentially be held as virtual meetings to discuss personnel matters. Info: bcps.org.

County Council Meetings

Upcoming legislative sessions of the County Council will be held in-person and via web conferencing at 6 p.m. on June 1, July 6, July 28, Aug. 3 and Aug. 25, with work sessions on June 30 and July 28. Info: baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil or call 410-887-3916.

Northwest Voice Calendar of Events

We'll publish your community meetings and free events in our online calendar at no charge. Submit the details to nwvoicenews.com or email editor@nwvoicenews.com. Please submit at least 30 days prior to your event and allow 7 days for publication.

DISTRICT 10 UNITY TEAM



Senator
Ben Brooks

Candidate
Robin Harvey

Delegate
N. Scott Phillips

Delegate
Jennifer White Holland

COMMUNITY. PEOPLE. RESULTS.

**EARLY
VOTING**

JUNE 11-18

**ELECTION
DAY**

JUNE 23

MAKING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE

Cracked down on Big Pharma's price gouging by passing a law to allow the setting of upper price limits for all state prescription drug purchases. This will help strengthen Maryland's ability to negotiate lower prescription costs and stabilize insurance premiums.

LOWERING ENERGY BILLS WITH SAFER, SMARTER UTILITIES

Passed legislation that provides \$200M in direct energy relief for Marylanders to combat rising energy costs.

PROTECTING FEDERAL WORKERS

Passed legislation to provide stimulus to federal workers and resources for the Attorney General to protect the 142,876 federal employees in Maryland affected by Donald Trump and Elon Musk's firing spree.