

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOWARD COUNTY, INC.  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOWARD COUNTY EDUCATION FUND, INC.  
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## **QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

Please answer all questions using 50 words or less for each question.

Name **Allen R. Dyer**

Age **59** – DOB **June 8, 1947**

Biographical Information (no more than 50 words)

**Allen Dyer is an attorney, computer consultant, blacksmith and his children are River Hill HS graduates.**

**As an Air Force Captain (USAFA 68), Dyer was a combat pilot (D.F.C.), and flight instructor in airplanes, gliders, & balloons at the USAF Academy.**

**Allen Dyer has taught computer science at Ann Arundel Community College.**

1. What are two specific Howard County Public School System successes and two specific suggestions for improvements?

**Attracting good teachers has been the key to the success of HCPSS and improving starting salaries would help attract even more good teachers.**

**Committing extra resources to the elimination of the achievement gap is our Board's most worthy goal but targeting resources to specific students is a necessary next step.**

2. How can the Howard County Public School System provide a civil environment in all schools and the central office?

**A civil environment starts with treating others as you would have them treat yourself. For example, current policies deny students the assumption of innocence. Providing students, especially high school students approaching**

**voting age, the same civil respect that is mandated for adults by the U.S. Constitution would be a start.**

3. How would you balance the importance of assessed academic courses with the arts and physical education?

**Our representative government cannot last unless our schools have a balanced core curriculum including appreciation and enjoyment of the arts and the encouragement to engage in physical activity. Regardless of mandated testing requirements, our core curriculum must be designed to produce a well rounded and physically active citizen.**

4. What are critical issues for you in school redistricting decisions?

**Maintaining student peer groups should be the primary concern during redistricting. Small percentages of students should not be separated from their peers. Students isolated from their friends face heavy burdens when attempting to break into pre-existing student groups. Feeder schools minimize student disruption and prevent distractions from the educational process.**

5. How will education in Howard County improve as a result of a seven member Board of Education?

**Expansion of the Board increases the chance of vigorous discussion of the issues facing HCPSS. Further, with five Board members being elected, voters can afford to select the “right mix” of backgrounds to provide balance. Previous Boards have listened to the administration—hopefully, now, they will also listen to the community.**

6. How should parents and the public be informed about provisions for the safety and security of school children?

**Parents should be involved in all phases of the creation and implementation of provisions for student safety and security. The activation of emergency provisions should be communicated immediately to parents via email and, if appropriate, through radio stations. The Board should not approve actions that cannot be shared with parents.**

7. Equity issues regarding capital projects, both new and renovation, are constantly raised. How would you assure equity among schools?

**Construction of new schools can be bundled with renovation of older schools and treated as a single budget item. We cannot ignore existing schools until they are crumbling to the ground. Infrastructure and maintenance must be priorities. Adding new buildings before providing adequate maintenance and renovation is irresponsible.**

8. What is your opinion of the Student Management System, utilized for all student information such as grade reporting, attendance, discipline, and contact information?

**SMS is a fiasco. The current Board doesn't know how bad the problem is because none have a technical background. Board members hold our tax dollars in trust and—rather than whitewash the situation—the board should correct systemic HCPSS procurement problems by adopting the general procurement procedures required of state agencies.**