



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

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

Name **Allen R. Dyer**

Age **60 (DOB 6/8/1947)**

Web Site Address **www.lawlab.com/campaign/**

Biographical Information (no more than 50 words)

As a lawyer, I know the MARYLAND EDUCATION ARTICLE. I am a computer consultant experienced in network systems and I have taught at Anne Arundel Community College. I was an Air Force flight instructor and I flew combat in Southeast Asia.

My children graduated from Howard County Public Schools.

1. What do you want to accomplish as a member of the Board of Education?

Adhere to state requirements, improve partnerships with the county government and all communities. Open communication with, and honestly disclose issues important to, the communities. Create a safe and healthy school environment that provides each child with the foundation and opportunity to reach his/her potential as a human being.

2. How will you advocate for the funds needed for school maintenance and renovations?

Require evaluations using standardized process and specs. Fully disclose findings to public and county officials. Require complete accounting of costs (operating/capital). Estimates driven by needs not arbitrary caps. Education can't be viewed as a separate/distinct entity. A well planned, cost effective method will allow proper prioritization of our limited resources.

3. How will you support the right of the public to access school department reports, contracts and budget documents?

Require that all documents prepared by or for the school system also be provided in computer file format with information not releasable under the Public Information Act segregated or tagged for automated redaction. Require posting of publicly releasable documents to the web within 30 days of creation or receipt.

4. What opportunities are there to make Howard County Schools more environmentally friendly or green?

Partner closely with Montgomery County and others who have integrated green practices into their operations and construction programs. Work with the Department of Public Works which has already built green buildings. Require LEED certification.

Schools represent abundant opportunities for studying how to build a sustainable living environment.

5. Child obesity is a major issue. How can the school system address this issue?

Focus on improving the quality of all foods and beverages sold on school grounds and providing more opportunities to engage in regular physical activity for students, parents, school employees and board members. Require annual physical fitness tests and body mass index assessments for all students, school employees and board members.

6. How will you recognize and reward the teaching of critical thinking skills in the classroom?

I can't answer this fundamental question in 50 words. But, I would vigorously support every teacher's right to carve out instructional time to devote to the analysis, integration, and application of the fact based content presented to our students. "Learning how to learn" is our most important product.

7. How should the Department of Education help low-performing students and low-performing schools?

Excellent teachers are our most valuable resource so financial incentives should be used to match our best teachers with schools and students identified as low performing. Low performing students should also receive extra educational resources such as parental involvement in crafting solutions, community involvement, and after hours access to computers.

8. Howard County Schools are ranked as excellent. What ideas do you have that will challenge the school system to strive for even higher academic achievement?

Higher academic achievement is not enough. Our students must be prepared to successfully face the challenges of life in a democracy. To assess whether graduates are having difficulty reaching their full potential and to inform our efforts to improve, we must establish and maintain a system of feedback from graduates.