

# 2022 Montgomery County Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire

Our Revolution Maryland recognizes the importance of the Montgomery County Board of Education in shaping educational policy in the state's largest county. We are seeking to endorse Progressive Champions who will help improve the public education available to all Montgomery County students.

Please provide as much information as possible. If you have any questions, please email [hal@ourrevolutionmd.com](mailto:hal@ourrevolutionmd.com). Thank you!

Email \*

val4boe@gmail.com

Name of person completing this form. \*

Valerie Coll

Title of office sought including district \*

Board of Education District 5

Candidate status in race

Challenger to Democratic Incumbent ▼

Website

[ValerieColl4BOE.com](http://ValerieColl4BOE.com)

Email

[Val4BOE@gmail.com](mailto:Val4BOE@gmail.com)

Phone

3019809056

Candidate Facebook

[facebook.com/ValerieColl4BOE](https://facebook.com/ValerieColl4BOE)

Candidate Twitter

n/a

Candidate Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/val4boe/>

Candidate's Progressive Values

### Campaign issues and pledges

Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities?

I am running for the Board of Education to improve communication, advocacy and transparency. My priorities will include a more proactive engagement with the system regarding processes concerning instruction, assessment, budgets and making sure that all voices from our county get equitable access and treatment in the decision making process.

Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the board of education? (Please identify and explain)

I believe that the BOE has strayed from its mission of providing oversight and direction and is, instead, too frequently reliant on the system's executive leadership to actually handle the responsibility that belongs to the BOE. Communication, transparency and accountability all need to be more directly supervised by the BOE as the elected voices of the community.

What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?

My 32 years in MCPS as a teacher and as a strong union member of MCEA allow me a unique vantage point unlike any currently available on the BOE. I have the direct daily experience of providing instruction, supporting other educators and working within the system to try and build collaborative consensus.

Please describe your background in education? Have you taught in schools?

I was an elementary school teacher in MCPS from July 1989 until June 2021.

Do you have children who are or were between the ages of 5 and 18? If yes, did they attend MoCo Public schools? If not, please explain why not.

Both of my grown children attended MCPS for their ES/MS and HS education.

Please set forth your position on Charter Schools. (We recognize it may be nuanced. Include in your answer whether you are receiving any support from any such school or individual or group associated with the Charter School Movement in any way.)

Charter schools are a way to siphon money and support from public schools where educational best practices may not be used and where students may be excluded or removed because their needs don't meet the charter mission. The strength of a community - whether our local community or national community is in having all students provided with the best education in a public, accountable system.

How do you propose to attract and retain qualified teachers and to ensure that all students are receiving a high quality education?

We have to use our in-house resources to encourage students in MCPS to pursue education and we do this by offering work /study employment and continued partnership with Montgomery College. We need to use the model of the existing Minority Scholars Program and build a Minority Educators Program. We need to seek funding from the NEA and MSEA to help us with this work and MCEA needs to be included in any partnership/programming with MCPS. The systemic disrespect and unequal opportunity growing over these past few years that MCPS has in recognizing and addressing how it treats its educators and the community at large. Audits, surveys and talk about equity and excellence don't actually provide day to equity and excellence in practice.

Does the candidate endorse the Our Revolution Platform?

<https://ourrev.us/Platform2022>

Yes ▼

If the candidate has questions or concerns about any items in the OR Platform, please note here:

My one concern is that the \$15 is an admirable as a starting point but that in many communities that is still not a living wage.

Is candidate a recurring Our Revolution donor at \$5/month or more?

- Yes
- No (You can contribute at <https://ourrev.us/2022member>)
- Pledged at <https://ourrev.us/2022member>
- Other: .....

Candidate's narrative

Candidate's political history

What offices have they run for or held before? How did they fare in those elections? What have they accomplished in office?

This is my first public campaign. ....

Candidate's personal story

Aside from political offices they've held, what is noteworthy about the candidate's life story? ie. personal experiences, jobs, education, etc

Aside from my professional experience which I believe is at the heart of my campaign. a series of events that have shaped my life are about my battle with colon cancer for three years. Through that experience of no knowing whether I would live or die, particularly after having successful surgery and treatment, being struck by the news just three months later, that the disease was discovered metastasized in another part of my body and going through more surgery and more invasive and difficult treatment after surgery. This challenge to my physical and mental health taught me about persevering and setting goals within myself. I came out of those years determined to do my best in appreciating my life and my place in the world around me. After retiring from teaching, I knew that I wanted to continue to serve students, educators and the community and I knew that bringing my experience to the BOE would be where my service was needed. ....

### Possible negatives

Use this space to tell us anything you think might be used against the candidate during this campaign

My lack of wide political experience or engaging in lots of affiliated party actions and networking may be seen as a negative especially among those who would like political action to be the main goal of work in public education or those who see the BOE as a good first step to other elected office. I see the position as one of responsibility to others.

### Other endorsements

What noteworthy endorsements has this candidate has received (if they are not already listed on candidate website)

Montgomery County Education Association

### Candidate's campaign infrastructure

Candidate Campaign Manager name, phone, email

Chris Wilhem crwilhelm@gmail.com 3017067843

Candidate Finance Manager name, phone, email

Lauren Moskowitz Lavelle moskl82@gmail.com 3019084167

### Fundraising analysis

How much has the candidate raised? How many donors and what is the average donation? How does this candidate's fundraising compare to their opponents?

currently app.\$8,000 has been raised with app. 300 donors with an average donation of \$25. My opponent ran for an open seat 4 years ago unopposed and has a much larger pool of money.

Campaign team/volunteer assessment

How many people are working for the candidate? Does the campaign have enough volunteers?

We have not organized our volunteer team beyond verbal commitments at this point.

Online organizing

How many emails/contacts has the campaign collected?

app. 100-125

Theory to win

How many votes does the candidate need to win? What's the plan to get there?

I will need app. 60,000 votes to win which would be 20,000 more votes than I won in the primary. In the primary our final count of separation was under four hundred votes. There will be multiple fliers sent from MCEA/MSEA, yard signs, on-line advertising and increased social media.

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