

Candidates for the 2024 HC Board of Education

Tiffany Tang, River Hill High School
Mentor: Dr. Feng Ouyang

The Howard County Board of Education (BoE) consists of seven members who serve four year terms. Two are elected countywide as at-large members, while the remaining five represent each of the five electoral districts.¹ On November 5th, 2024, these five district seats will be contested in a general election.

Earlier this year, in May, **Districts 1, 4, and 5** held primary elections for the Board. Upon receiving the fewest votes, Pravin Ponnuri (District 1), Hiruy Hadgu (District 4), and Catherine Carter (District 5) did not advance in the race. Six candidates² remain on the ballot for November. The following guide provides a nonpartisan overview of each.

Moreover, one candidate per district is endorsed by the Howard Progressive Project and the Columbia Democratic Club. The Howard County Education Association (HCEA) has also issued endorsements. According to their website, HCEA is “the exclusive representative in collective bargaining for all teachers and most education support professionals in Howard County.”

District 1 — including Elkridge and parts of Ellicott City

Name	Education	Votes Received in the Primary	Occupation	Endorsed By
Andre Gao	PhD in Physics	3,417 (29.3%)	Economics Research Manager	
Meg Ricks	BA in Anthropology	5,657 (48.4%)	Preschool Teacher's Assistant	1, 2

NOTES:

1. Endorsed by the **Howard Progressive Project** and the **Columbia Democratic Club**
2. Endorsed by the **Howard County Education Association**
3. Endorsed by Republican **Allan Kittleman** and Democrat **Jon Weinstein**

- **Andre Gao**

Andre Gao has resided in Howard County for the past 24 years. During this time, he has successfully led outreach programs, diversified workplace management, and served as treasurer for numerous community organizations. Moreover, he has consistently volunteered with Rebuilding Together, a national non-profit providing accessible housing. With 30 years of professional experience and a PhD from Duke University, Gao offers financial expertise crucial to resolve school budget issues. His priorities include getting the operating budget in order, renovating aging schools, and ensuring future-focused education for students. This is his first time running for the Board.

- **Meg Ricks**

Meg Ricks, a 19-year resident of Howard County, has actively participated in local governance. She has testified before the Board of Education, County Council, and Planning Board. With experience in PTA leadership and as co-chair of the Operating Budget Review Committee, Ricks has demonstrated expertise in fiscal matters and resource allocation. Her priorities include addressing school overcrowding, strengthening the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, adjusting school start times, and improving the budget. This is her second run for the Board, after an unsuccessful campaign in 2022.

District 4 — including Clarksville, Fulton, and parts of Columbia

Name	Education	Votes Received in the Primary	Occupation	Endorsed By
Julie Kaplan	MBA	6,202 (46.3%)	Marketing Executive	3
Jen Mallo	MA in East Asian Studies	4,899 (36.6%)	BoE Chairperson	1

NOTES:

1. Endorsed by the **Howard Progressive Project** and the **Columbia Democratic Club**
2. Endorsed by the **Howard County Education Association**
3. Endorsed by Republican **Allan Kittleman** and Democrat **Jon Weinstein**

- **Julie Kaplan**

Julie Kaplan has lived in Howard County for 25 years, during which she has held senior marketing positions and achieved transformative business accomplishments. With over 20 years of experience planning and maximizing budgets, Kaplan has consistently delivered solutions to fiscal challenges. Her campaign has garnered bipartisan approval from former public officials. Overall, Kaplan’s priorities include maintaining academic excellence, ensuring students’ physical and psychological safety, and fully funding the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. This is her first time running for the Board.

- **Jen Mallo** (incumbent)

Jen Mallo has lived in Howard County for over 20 years, during which she has served on policy review committees and led the Community Advisory Council. Most notably, Mallo is the current chairperson of the Board of Education. In this role, she implemented damage provisions for board-approved contracts, resolved a \$50 million health fund deficit, and shaped the schools’ COVID-19 response. Her priorities cover student safety, academic achievement, and staff recruitment. First elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2020, this marks her third campaign for the Board.

District 5 — including Dayton, Woodbine, and Highland

Name	Education	Votes Received in the Primary	Occupation	Endorsed By
------	-----------	-------------------------------	------------	-------------

Andrea Chamblee	JD	4,430 (32.5%)	Professor in Regulatory Affairs	1, 2
Trent Kittleman	JD	5,870 (43.1%)	Lawyer, legislator	

NOTES:

1. Endorsed by the **Howard Progressive Project** and the **Columbia Democratic Club**
2. Endorsed by the **Howard County Education Association**
3. Endorsed by Republican **Allan Kittleman** and Democrat **Jon Weinstein**

- **Andrea Chamblee**

Andrea Chamblee, a graduate of Glenelg High School, has lived in Howard County for over 50 years. As the former director of compliance policy at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, she has held numerous vendors accountable to ensure public safety. Beyond her professional work, Chamblee has also advocated for gun safety, having testified before the House Judiciary Committee. Her campaign prioritizes academic achievement, transparent redistricting processes, capital investment, and student safety. This is her first time running for the Board.

- **Trent Kittleman**

Trent Kittleman has lived in Howard County for over 50 years. In this time, she has held various civic positions, including Secretary of Maryland’s Department of Transportation, CEO of the Maryland Transportation Authority, and member of the House of Delegates, where she voted in favor of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. Apart from her political career, Kittleman has also volunteered in countywide initiatives. For the past 13 years, she has judged HCPSS’ Simulated Congressional Hearings. Her campaign prioritizes student safety, parents’ rights, academic achievement, and expanding educational options. This is her first time running for the Board.

¹ To view which District you are located in, please visit the [HC Interactive Map](#) and input your address in the search bar. Then, select “political boundaries” and click on “council districts.”

² This overview focuses exclusively on active campaigns. Districts 1, 4, and 5 are covered due to their involvement in the May primary election. For more information regarding Districts 2 and 3, please refer to the following resources:

District 2

- **Larry Doyle**
 - Personal website: <http://larrydoyleforeducation.com/about/>
- **Antonia Watts**, incumbent
 - Personal website: <https://www.antonawatts.com/>
 - [Questionnaire](#) with the Baltimore Sun

District 3

- **Jolene Mosley**, incumbent; she is running uncontested.

- Resources from her BoE campaign in 2020:
 - [Questionnaire](#) with Patch News
 - [Voter Guide](#) published by the Capital Gazette newspaper