

Reopen
Charles County
PAC

Voter Guide

Authority: Reopen Charles County PAC, Andrew Conant, Treasurer

Introduction

Reopen Charles County LLC was founded in May 2020 as a grassroots organization of Charles County Citizens fighting against COVID-19 lockdowns, restrictions, and mandates. We were a non-partisan political advocacy group, loosely organized on Facebook and via email. After fighting to reopen the county following the unscientific 2-week delay of May 2020 by our County Commissioner Board, we fought vigorously for every reopening stage thereafter. We even helped take the fight statewide when in December 2020, our group stayed the would-be shut down of indoor dining and gyms during the winter COVID-19 surge.

In August 2021, our County Commissioner Board unanimously passed an illegal state of emergency in order to force a countywide indoor mask mandate. There was no data presented as to what triggered the decision and no stated goal as to when it would be lifted. Small businesses begging for relief from restrictions went ignored. Reopen Charles County crowdfunded the monetary resources to hire a lawyer and sue the Commissioners. We won - that's the end of the months long saga - but not without a lot of proverbial blood, sweat, and tears. That's a story for another day. At the end of it all, we started this Political Action Committee to be a long-standing influence on the direction of this County's governance.

The incumbents should not be re-elected. Radical partisans should not take their place. We humbly present to you our selections for candidates we think want to be elected for the best reasons, regardless of party affiliation.

Reminders

The primary in Maryland is a closed system. That means you **MUST** be affiliated with a party to vote for most races. You may vote for non-partisan races like school board if you are not registered with a party, but you may not vote for statewide offices like Governor or local offices like County Commissioner. The deadline to change party affiliation has passed. We will be making recommendations for who to support on both sides of the aisle for the primary or we may recommend supporting a certain candidate in the general election.

In races where you may make multiple selections and we recommend fewer candidates than you are allowed to cast a vote for - **ONLY VOTE FOR THE RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES**. Withholding your vote is making sure a bad candidate doesn't squeak out a victory by accumulating "throwaway votes"

We've provided rationale for all of our statements of support or opposition. However, for the "too long; didn't read" candidate list, skip to the last page.

Governor



Dan Cox
(R-Frederick County)

Running Mate: Gordana Schifanelli

Dan aligns with Reopen Charles County on the goals of liberty and property rights. He is anti-lockdown, pro-small business, and anti-mandate (masks and vaccines). He has helped amplify our group, specifically, and helped us fight our illegal mask mandate substantively.

Support Dan in both the primary and the general elections.

Congress



Chris Palombi
(R-Calvert County)

Chris is the pro-liberty candidate we need in Congress. He's been a great supporter of Reopen Charles County since we began in 2020.

Support Chris in the primary and general elections.

County Commissioners

Commissioner President

Reopen Charles County PAC opposes both candidates running for Commissioner President on the Democrat side of the ballot.

Reuben Collins voted for the initial 2 week delay in 2020, severely damaging the financial viability of many small businesses and the mental health of ordinary citizens. He initiated the illegal mask mandate of August 2021. He voted THIS YEAR to raise your real property taxes by declining to lower our tax rate to the constant yield. He has raised tens of thousands of dollars from special interest groups over the past 4 years. He does not deserve re-election.

Latina Wilson, while committed to kicking certain corporate interests out of governance in Charles and is open-minded to working with bipartisan actors, still has a COVID-tyranny history. As a voting member of the Charles County BOE, Ms. Wilson voted in February 2021 to keep students floundering in Zoom school in that hellish virtual landscape far passed the Governor's stated deadline of March 1 of that same year. Students with IEPs, low connectivity, or other specialized needs were not allowed back in school until March 22, 2021. The rest of the student population was thrown the crumbs of 2-days a week on April 19, 2021.

There is currently no candidate running in the general election as a Republican to oppose either of these candidates. Please contact the Republican Central Committee if you would like to run for Commissioner President in the General Election.

County Commissioners

District 1

Reopen Charles County PAC opposes the following candidates for District 1:

Gilbert Bowling voted for the illegal mask mandate of August 2021, and voted to renew it at least 3 times before voting against it. He voted THIS YEAR to raise your real property taxes by declining to lower our tax rate to the constant yield. Gilbert has never asked for Reopen Charles County's support and so we do not offer it, even though he voted to initially reopen in May 2020 and was the deciding vote that killed the mask mandate for good in January 2022. Worth noting, Gilbert praises Dr. Abney as a hero and inquired in November 2020 as to whether the government should publish a list of businesses who "violated" health department policies in order to "shame them a bit".

Richard Cook has stated his support for COVID-19 tyranny on multiple occasions. He supported every mask mandate from the governor's year-long mandate to the illegally passed mandate from the County Commissioners. He was one of only about 6 pro-mask mandate witnesses at the public hearing. He has casually slandered the founder of Reopen Charles County. He also bought all of his campaign signs out of state. He does not seem to prioritize supporting the small businesses of Charles County.

Reopen Charles County is **neutral** on the candidacy of Matt Nolan Wills, Democrat Candidate for Commissioner District 1.

County Commissioners

District 1



Paul Genevie
(R-Charles, District 1)

Paul Genevie, owner of Genevie Plumbing, has been a successful small business owner for almost 50 years in Charles County. He has been a staunch supporter of Reopen Charles County from the beginning. Mr. Genevie wants to be a true public servant, not someone in office to advance the interests of a few.

Support Paul Genevie in the general election.

County Commissioners

District 2

Reopen Charles County PAC opposes the following candidate for District 2:

Thomasina Coates voted for the initial 2 week delay in 2020, severely damaging the financial viability of many small businesses and the mental health of ordinary citizens. She voted for the illegal mask mandate of August 2021, every renewal of said emergency order, and voted to sustain the mandate at the public hearing on January 18, 2022. She voted THIS YEAR to raise your real property taxes by declining to lower our tax rate to the constant yield. We believe she would not hesitate to return Charles County to some kind of restrictive state this Fall when coronavirus cases inevitably rise.

Reopen Charles County is **neutral** on the candidacies of Ongisa McKenzie and Emmanuel "Manny" Ogungbesan, Democrat Candidates for Commissioner District 2.

There is currently no candidate running in the general election as a Republican to oppose who ever is the primary winner on the Democrat side. Please contact the Republican Central Committee if you would like to run for Commissioner District 2 in the General Election.

County Commissioners

District 3

Reopen Charles County PAC opposes the following candidates for District 2:

Amanda Stewart voted for the initial 2 week delay in 2020, severely damaging the financial viability of many small businesses and the mental health of ordinary citizens. She voted for the illegal mask mandate of August 2021, every renewal of said emergency order, and voted to sustain the mandate at the public hearing on January 18, 2022. She is the only commissioner who did not vote to raise your real property taxes because she was absent for the vote. Amanda was absent from a great number of Commissioner meetings, turned her camera off for virtual meetings, or had to embarrassingly be called several times to cast votes. We believe she would not hesitate to return Charles County to some kind of restrictive state this Fall when coronavirus cases inevitably rise.

Carlos Childs is admirable as an anti-establishment candidate. He is young and cares about our community. However, Carlos vigorously supported the continuation of a mask mandate in Charles County in January 2022 - leading a petition drive and testifying at the hearing in favor of the measure.

Reopen Charles County is **neutral** on the candidacy of Linda Dade, Democrat Candidate for Commissioner District 3.

There is currently no candidate running in the general election as a Republican to oppose whoever is the primary winner on the Democrat side. Please contact the Republican Central Committee if you would like to run for Commissioner District 3 in the General Election.

County Commissioners

District 4

Reopen Charles County is **neutral** on the candidacies of Bobby Rucci and Ralph Patterson.

Bobby voted to reopen in May 2020, but he voted for the mask mandate of 2021. He ultimately ended the mask mandate in January 2022. He is a small business owner and has been for a long time. We are not supporting incumbents, but Bobby is worth supporting in the primary election.

County Commissioners

District 4



Stacey Lehn
(R-Charles, District 4)

Stacey Lehn is a small business owner, concerned Mama Bear, and long-time Reopen Charles County supporter.

Stacey will be a great commissioner.

Support Stacey Lehn in the general election.

School Board

All voters can cast votes in the primary election for School Board candidates. ONLY vote for the recommendations and do NOT cast votes for any other candidates, even if you have a vote left to cast.

You may vote for the At-Large Candidate and 2 Candidates in the district in which you reside.

District 1

Cindy Coulby and Calvin Montgomery, Sr.

District 2

Julie Brown and Olivia Rollamas

District 3

Bob Poore and Andre Kinney

District 4

Andre Griggs, Jr.

At-Large

Bernadette Smith

State Senate

District 28



Michelle Talkington
(R-Charles)

Michelle Talkington is a powerhouse of a woman. Mother of 6, three-time small business owner, involved community member, non-profit champion, and long-time Reopen Charles County supporter. Michelle will fight in Annapolis for the resources that Charles County needs to flourish.

Support Michelle Talkington in the general election.

State Delegates

Reopen Charles County is taking a unique position on District 28 Delegates. We will be supporting candidates on both sides of the ballot for the primary election *only*. We will reissue endorsements for the general election. It is very important to have new leadership in Annapolis. There are great candidates on both sides who would be deserving of your support.

ONLY vote for the suggested candidates. Do not cast a third vote on the Democrat side.

Democrat

Edward Holland

Cornell Posey

Republican

James Ashburn

Marquita Bushrod

Tyrone Hall

Charles County Circuit Court

Reopen Charles County is **neutral** on the candidacies of Monise Brown and Adrienne Davis.

In the Judge's race, all three candidates will appear on both the Democrat and Republican ballots. To avoid the general election runoff, a single candidate needs to receive the most votes in BOTH partisan primary elections. Otherwise, the winner for the Democrat and Republican primaries, respectively, will advance to a head-to-head contest in November.

Charles County Circuit Court



Sarah Freeman Proctor

Sarah is currently a Senior Assistant State Attorney for St. Mary's County and a former Charles County State Attorney. She's tough on crime and pursues justice for the vulnerable and forgotten.

Support Sarah Proctor in either side of the primary election.

Final Candidate Support List

Governor - Dan Cox (R-Frederick County)

Congress - Chris Palombi (R-Congressional District 5)

Commissioner President - No Endorsement

Commissioner District 1 - Paul Genevie (R-District 1)

Commissioner District 2 - No Endorsement

Commissioner District 3 - No Endorsement

Commissioner District 4 - Stacey Lehn (R-District 4)

State Senate - Michelle Talkington (R)

State Delegates - Edward Holland (D), Cornell Posey (D), James Ashburn (R), Marquita Bushrod (R), Tyrone Hall (R)

School Board - At-Large - Bernadette Smith

School Board - District 1 - Cindy Coulby and Calvin Montgomery, Sr.

School Board - District 2 - Julie Brown and Olivia Rollamas

School Board - District 3 - Bob Poore and Andre Kinney

School Board - District 4 - Andre Griggs, Jr.

Circuit Court - Charles County - Sarah Freeman Proctor

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