



2026 Washington County Board of Commissioners Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE NAME: Curtis William Reigh

OFFICE SOUGHT: **Washington County Board of Commissioners**

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*I confirm that the responses provided here are my official positions in seeking local office and I understand that **WCTA, WCESP & WCASA** reserves the right to share my responses with members and interested parties.*

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: Curtis William Reigh

DATE SUBMITTED: 3/19/26

*Candidates: To be considered for a recommendation, you must indicate your response to each of the questions. You may use more space than is provided to elaborate on your answers and provide clarification, explanation, and other context, but please be certain to clearly indicate the questions(s) to which you refer. Please return your completed and signed questionnaire to **WCTA, WCESP & WCASA***

Education Funding and Local Budgets:

1. Do you commit to prioritizing public education funding in future county budgets?

What are your top three budget priorities for the public school system?

County Commissioners are responsible for allocating funding to the Board of Education; however, they do not control how those funds are ultimately spent. The Board of Education retains authority over budgetary decisions and how resources are utilized within the school system. My role is to ensure appropriate funding is allocated, while the responsibility for implementation rests with the school board.

2. How do you plan to fund public school priorities? What are your thoughts on the current county tax and revenue structure and any actions you would take to update the tax code to promote fairness and equity?

The primary form of taxation under my authority at the county level is property tax. Income tax rates are established at the state level and are not directly controlled by the county. Given that property taxes are currently quite high, my goal is to work toward reducing them as much as responsibly possible while still maintaining essential services for our community.

3. How you would utilize your budget authority to address shortfalls facing our schools if the state or federal government reduces their commitment(s)?

We currently fund the Board of Education at or near the maximum level permitted under state regulations. As a result, if there are any funding shortfalls or concerns regarding how those funds are utilized, those matters would fall under the authority of the Board of Education. In such cases, it would be appropriate to direct those questions to the Board rather than the County Commissioners.

4. In many schools, educators are dealing with high class sizes and caseloads. How will you help address critical concerns with educator recruitment and retention in order to ensure we can increase staffing to reduce class sizes and caseloads?

While this is not directly within my authority, I would support exploring policies that help ease the burden on our current educational system. One approach could include expanding options for students to attend private schools or participate in homeschooling, while allocating funding in a way that follows the student at a comparable rate to public school funding.

5. Do you commit to honoring the role of your elected body in upholding the policy and funding mandates associated with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future?

Yes

No

Additional Comments:

Public Funding for Private Schools

6. Do you support or oppose allocating public funding to non-public school students through voucher programs?

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

Our schools in the county are currently performing below the state average, and the state average itself falls below the national benchmark. This is a serious concern that deserves thoughtful attention and action.

We must acknowledge that the current system is not meeting the needs of every student. It is

7. Do you support or oppose allowing non-public school students to participate in public school extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.)?

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

I would never deny a child the right to have a good childhood

Collective Bargaining

8. Do you support or oppose school employees gaining the right to strike?

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

If a strike were to occur, it could significantly disrupt the public school system and shift attention and reliance toward alternative education options, such as private schools. This would have a substantial impact on how educational priorities are balanced within the community.

9. What is your understanding of the nature of the relationship between the Board of Education, Superintendent, county government, and union as it relates to negotiations, budget development, and administration of schools? How do you see yourself utilizing the power of your office in working within this structure?

NA

10. How do you balance honoring ratified contracts with public employees in the county, including educators, with other priorities, especially in tight fiscal times?

NA

11. Do you commit to meeting with union leadership to talk about the needs facing our schools (including salary and staffing levels) and the revenue or other budget actions necessary to meet those needs?

Yes

No

Additional Comments:

I am always open to meeting and taking the time to listen to others perspectives and concerns.

Privatization and Support for Education Support Professionals

12. Are you in favor of contracting out custodial, cafeteria, and maintenance services rather than have those services provided by Board of Education employees?

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

If given the option, I would consider both supporting and opposing the proposal based on what best serves taxpayers while also benefiting students. At this time, I do not have enough information to make a final determination, but my decision will ultimately be guided by what is most practical, fiscally responsible, and beneficial for the community.

13. Too many ESPs work second jobs and struggle to provide for their families, buy homes, save for their futures, and afford community or four-year college tuition for their children to learn a trade and plan a career. The looming threats of privatization by school districts, which would import even lower-paid workers from outside areas, risk the stability of schools and communities and further undermine the value of ESPs and their jobs.

ESPs across the state are organizing to build presence, strength, and power in a campaign focused on a bill of rights that defines the issues long nagging these dedicated employees and now threatening not only the recruitment of new employees but the retention of dedicated veteran employees. You can read about the [ESP Bill of Rights here](#).

Do you support the ESP Bill of Rights?

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

I would support this initiative provided that measurable improvements are achieved, such as bringing student performance and test scores above the national average. Establishing clear benchmarks for success helps ensure accountability and fairness while prioritizing positive outcomes for students.

14. If elected, how would you use your office to help make the ESP Bill of Rights a reality in the county?

I would demonstrate that our schools have made meaningful improvements and are performing at a higher level than before. By presenting clear, measurable, and well-documented results, we can justify the need for additional funding and show that increased investment will continue to produce positive outcomes for our students and community.

Additional Information

Along with this completed questionnaire, please provide an up-to-date bio or resume as well as a current list of endorsements for this election cycle.