

MON COUNTY COMMISSION

Bloom, Folz unopposed in primary

BY BEN CONLEY
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Democrat Tom Bloom is seeking a third six-year term as the Western District representative on the Monongalia County Commission.

Both he and Republican challenger MaryAnn (Babich) Folz are unopposed on the primary ballot.

Folz, 62, said this is her first foray into politics.

"I grew up in Morgantown — best years of my life. I returned to my family farm in 2022 after a 34-year career in corporate America. Some things are better and some are worse," Folz said. "I want to keep the positive momentum going, and address the prob-

lem areas, those that don't seem to be prioritized today."

An increased focus on safety, drugs and crime as well as a larger county role in addressing homelessness are among the issues Folz lists as top priorities. She also said the county has to push for better road maintenance.

"I want to really listen to the public and our area partners, and follow their priorities, not my own," Folz said, referring to herself as the "common sense, not-a-politician candidate."

Bloom, 70, spent seven two-year terms on Morgantown City Council, 1987-91, before returning to local politics in 2012 with election to the county commission.

He said he believes the com-

mission's record speaks for itself.

"I want to continue the positive growth and momentum the county commission has achieved in the past 11 years while maintaining our low property tax rates," Bloom said.

As for priorities, he said continuing to grow the local economy and create job opportunities is paramount as is holding state agencies accountable and in line with the county's needs and goals.

"I just want to continue to maintain an approachable, hands-on relationship with my constituents," Bloom said.

Early voting runs through May 11. Primary election day is May 14.

WESTOVER COUNCIL

Mayor's term length also on ballot

BY BEN CONLEY
BConley@DominionPost.com

The May 14 primary election will be a historic one for Westover, marking the first time the city's election will be held in line with the county primary.

The result will be at least one new member of Westover City Council as two incumbents and two political newcomers vie for the city's three at-large council seats.

After six years on council, Steve Andryczik is not seeking reelection as an at-large member, explaining he believes the city is in good hands and he's ready to enjoy retirement.

Edie Viola, on the other hand, is looking to secure what would be her eighth, four-year term.

Viola was first elected to the body in 1996.

"The people of Westover have been good to me through the years. I've had quite a few calls from people asking me to run again and I said, 'I'm thinking about it.' The more calls I've received the more I think I can continue to be a benefit to the city and do good things for the people," Viola said. "I feel like this council is doing a lot of good things for the city."

SEE WESTOVER, E-2

MON COUNTY EXCESS LEVIES



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post photos

A jogger and his dogs make their way along the trail. Levies are up for consideration for libraries, transit, fire departments and city parks.

Voters in Monongalia County will have four decisions to make

BY BEN CONLEY
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The renewal of four levies will be back before voters in the upcoming primary election.

Each of the four excess levies were originally passed in 2016 and renewed in 2020. They will expire June 30, 2025. If renewed, excess levies would run from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029.

Were all to pass, the four excess levies combined come to 4.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value for Class II (residential) and 9.4 cents for Class III and IV (commercial) property.

Renewal of an excess levy requires support from 60% of voters.

Mountain Line

The largest of the four excess levies, Mountain Line is looking for a second renewal of the transit levy originally passed in 2016.

As with the 2020 renewal, the rates requested will remain unchanged — 2.2 cents per \$100 assessed value on Class II and 4.4 cents per \$100 on Class III and IV.

It's anticipated the levy would provide Mountain Line \$2,223,973 annually for four years, beginning July 1, 2025 (\$8,895,892 total).

Of the annual allocation, \$500,000 will be earmarked for equipment purchases and just over \$1.7 million will support bus service.



Parks, trails and recreation

As with its original passage and subsequent renewal, a list of entities has a financial stake in continued voter support for the parks, trails and recreation levy.

Rates for the levy will remain unchanged at 1.16 cents per \$100 of assessed value for Class II and 2.32 cents for Class III and IV.

The levy is anticipated to generate \$1,172,643 annually or \$4,690,572 over four years.

Annual allocation of the funds would be as follows:

- County park system (\$658,420)
- BOPARC (\$281,582)
- Mon River and Deckers Creek rail-trails (\$100,000)
- West Virginia Botanic Garden (\$40,000)
- Cheat Lake and Laurel Point Soccer Clubs (\$40,000)
- Westover Park (\$40,000)

Fire protection

As with the current fire levy, the renewal language provided to the county includes levy rates that increase slightly over the four-year life of the levy.

Rates will range from 0.80 cents per \$100 for Class I and 1.60 cents for Class III and IV in year one to .92 cents and 1.84 cents in year four.



Those rates will generate \$808,718 in year one. The amount generated will increase about \$40,000 each year and top out at \$930,025 in year four.

Unlike years past, the Morgantown Fire Department will be included this time around.

If renewed, year one of the levy would provide \$58,914 for each of the county's 12 volunteer fire departments; \$54,500 for the Monongalia County Hazardous Incident Response Team; \$20,000 for the Morgantown Fire Department; \$16,350 for the Monongalia County Volunteer Fire Companies Association and \$10,900 for the Monongalia County Brush Fire Team.

Morgantown Library System

The Morgantown Library System is looking to generate \$551,770 annually — \$2,207,080 for the four-year term of the levy when it asks voters for levy renewal this month.

Rates for the library levy will also remain unchanged at 0.54 cents on \$100 at Class II and 1.08 cents at Class III and IV.

The levy provides general operations for the Morgantown, Arnettsville, Cheat Area, Clay-Battelle and Clinton District public libraries as well as the Aull Center for Local History.

GOVERNOR

Moore Capito

Residence: Charleston

Party: Republican



Moore Capito

Prior political experience: West Virginia House of Delegates, 2017-23

Top priorities if elected: Make West Virginia the safest state in America by supporting law enforcement and mandating fentanyl dealers get life in prison. Ensure every high school graduate is able to pass a college entrance exam, military entrance exam, or graduate with a job-ready skill to enter the workforce. Eliminate the personal income tax to turbocharge our economy and create jobs. Stand up to the D.C. elites and produce energy for the world.

Kevin "KC" Christian

Residence: Chloe, Calhoun County

Party: Republican



Kevin Christian

Prior political experience: "0 (that's a good thing, people want change)."

Top priorities if elected: First, clean up government by eliminating money from elections, rein in the party nonsense, install citizen initiative and citizen referendum. Then, publicly capitalize resources just sitting in the ground when we need capital now. We are running out of time to transition our economy. We are one scientific breakthrough away from our resources being marketable to becoming a liability. We are 70 years behind on this already.

Patrick Morrissey

Residence: Harpers Ferry

Party: Republican



Patrick Morrissey

Prior political experience: Attorney general of West Virginia since 2013

Top priorities if elected: In this campaign, many candidates will make promises. One candidate, however, has an unmatched conservative record of delivering victories on the most important challenges facing West Virginia. As governor, Patrick Morrissey will defend West Virginia from

Mitch Roberts

Residence: Poca, Putnam County

Party: Republican



Prior political experience: None. I have been working for a family-owned business as a manager for going on 30 years.

Top priorities if elected: Try to create a place of economic equality, where the people receive an acceptable wage that is more in line with the rest of the states. I want to take education to the next level. Seniors make up 16% of our population and they need to play a more important role in our communities. We have followed the same path as a state, so many times, by taking what is

SEE GOVERNOR, E-2

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Group releases 2024 West Virginia Legislative Scorecard for 26 key bills ahead of election

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia published its Legislative Scorecard for the 2024 West Virginia Legislative session.

This scorecard compiles the votes of all senators and delegates on 26 bills that became law. These 26 laws are significant to the LWVWV because they directly relate to key LWVWV priorities in four policy areas: strengthening democracy, safeguarding

equal rights, protecting children and families and creating a sustainable future.

The LWVWV Legislative Scorecard for 2024 (and for 2023) is available in a searchable format at LWVWV.org.

Voter service is a principle mission for the league. The Legislative Scorecard is designed to inform voters and to hold legislators, regardless of party, accountable for their votes on league priorities.

This information is particularly important as we enter the election season.

“This is our second year producing a Legislative Scorecard. Response from voters around the state has been tremendous,” said Julie Archer, president of LWVWV. “We want voters to be well-informed and to know how their legislators voted on bills of particular interest to the league.”

Although LWVWV priorities are the focus of the scorecard, voters who dis-

agree with those priorities may still find the scorecard useful because each bill is presented with full transparency. Whether the league supported or opposed each bill is clearly noted. For more information, every bill is linked to its legislative history on the Legislature website.

“To compile this scorecard, we reviewed all 279 bills that became law and selected the most substantive ones that pertained to our priorities. However, it’s

worth noting that instead of addressing the challenges facing our state in meaningful ways, the Legislature ignored many critical issues — the childcare crisis, fully funding Medicaid, improving public education, removing barriers to voting, ending discrimination, providing paid leave, ensuring equal pay for equal work, supporting evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders, and strengthening environmental protections,” said Archer.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The league does not support particular political parties or candidates. League membership is open to all (not just women) age 16 or older.

STAR CITY

Star City has moved its council election in-line with the Monongalia County Primary.

All those on the ballot are up for re-election and are unopposed.

Mayor

Sharon Doyle

Recorder

Steven Blinco

Council

Todd Greg
Gregory Epps
Lyn DeChristopher
Andy Laskody
James Morris

Election Day

Election Day in West Virginia is May 14.
Polls are open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

MONONGALIA COUNTY BOE

Three vie for two board seats

BY JIM BISSETT

JBissett@DominionPost.com

Three people, including the incumbent, are vying for two seats to the Monongalia County Board of Education in the Eastern District.

Incumbent Ron Lytle is the current president of Mon’s BOE.

He’s a 1994 graduate of WVU, where he studied sociology and criminology. He’s also the owner and operator of Lytle Construction and is active in community causes, locally and globally.

Lytle has a long association with PACE Enterprises, where he has been president and vice president of that organization’s board of directors.

He has served on the Board of Education since 2012.

Christina Fattore Mor-

gan is a political science professor at WVU, teaching courses on international economy, law and institutions. She has been on the faculty since 2006.

Her two children attend Monongalia County schools.

She holds degrees from Gettysburg College and Florida State University.

Shawn Smith is making a first run for BOE.

He’s a WVU graduate and industrial engineer who currently works in the performance solutions consulting group of his employer, Milliken and Co.

Smith is also an active volunteer in his church and community.

He’s the father of two children.

Mon BOE consists of five members, serving four-year terms.

WESTOVER

FROM PAGE E-1

Viola said the much-discussed Holland Avenue project slated for bid this summer is one of those good things.

“That’s going to be a big project that should have been done years ago, but now we’re moving forward on that,” she said.

Fellow incumbent Duane Tatar, 61, first joined council in 2021 when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Lawrence.

The city’s charter mandated the remaining term of the seat be up for grabs in the 2022 election. He was unopposed.

Now, he’s seeking a full four years.

“I just really feel like council is in good shape right now. The drama and the controversies are gone and we’re actually getting some things done and focusing on the city,” he said.

Tatar has owned a business in Westover — WV Jewelry & Pawn — for 14 years. He became a city resident in 2020.

He, too, says Holland Avenue must be a top priority while also pushing other infrastructure improvements, including the Dunkard Avenue and Fairmont Road sidewalk projects.

“I’m also really interested in what’s going to happen with this sales tax we’re going to implement,” he said. “I want to try to make sure that money goes

to the right places. I’d like to see it set aside, or at least part of it set aside in a way that it can do more for the citizens of Westover. I’d like to see it used to create infrastructure like parks, playgrounds and things that the people of the city can use.”

While Mark Gall, 62, has never run for political office, he’s no stranger to how the city functions.

He’s lived in Westover his entire life.

Gall serves as chair of the Westover Board of Zoning Appeals and can typically be found in the audience for meetings of council.

“Basically, when Steve [Andryzciak] decided he was going to step down and not run again, I had several citizens come to me and ask me to run, so I agreed to try it,” he said.

Holland Avenue and the Dents Run substation projects are top of mind for Gall when it comes to priorities.

He said he’d also like to see the city continue to work on streamlining the process of addressing abandoned, condemned and dilapidated properties.

“If the city can do that, I’d like to see a real effort to entice builders to maybe come in on some of those properties and construct single family homes,” he said. “I don’t have anything against students or rentals, but I’d like to see more families moving back into Westover.”

Randy Barnett, 61, is also a lifelong resident of the city.

He said he believes a lot of people simply don’t feel like they have a voice in government at any level.

“I’m no politician at all. I’m a working guy like everyone who walks out the door every morning. I’m no political guy. I’m not going to lie to you. I’m not up on what’s politically correct. I don’t know ... I have nothing against the people on [council] now. I don’t know them. But I don’t think they’ve done half what I’ve done in my lifetime as far as work out here,” he said.

Barnett went on to say he doesn’t really have specific priorities other than speaking for the people of Westover.

“I’m a straightforward guy. Some people like it. A lot of people don’t like it. I’m just going to say what’s on my mind. I don’t beat around the bush,” he said. “I’m a people person, and the people I’ve talked to when I was getting signatures and in my everyday work here in Westover, I get a sense that people don’t think they really have a voice.”

While the city’s mayoral seat is also on the ballot, that outcome appears to be a foregone conclusion as incumbent Mayor Bob Lucci is unopposed in his bid for a second term.

What’s not yet known is how long that second term will be.

Westover voters are being asked to weigh-in on a charter change that would extend the term length of mayor from two years to four years, matching the term length of council members.

GOVERNOR

FROM PAGE E-1

offered but not what we need.

Mac Warner

Residence: Charleston

Party: Republican

Political experience: Two terms as secretary of state, and five years with the U.S. State Department in Afghanistan advising the Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General’s office, and Ministry Women’s Affairs.

Top priorities if elected:

Improve West Virginia’s education system by focusing on teacher retention and recruitment, putting certified and qualified teachers in the classrooms, focusing on early childhood education, providing accessible and affordable childcare and addressing disciplinary problems in the classrooms. Improve infras-

tructure and broadband, increase job opportunities, increase workforce participation, solve the opioid crisis, and take care of seniors. Push back against federal government overreach and be a proponent for all forms of energy in a capitalist market.

These candidates did not respond for this report.

Steve Williams

Party: Democrat

Chase Linko-Looper

Party: Mountain

Chris Miller

Party: Republican



Mac Warner

ARLIE CAMPBELL for MAGISTRATE Division 4



COUNTY: Monongalia

PARTY: Nonpartisan/Independent

TOWN OF RESIDENCE: Morgantown, lifelong resident of Monongalia County

OCCUPATIONS: Retired; Consol, mine foreman papers, UMWA Local 4043; Mylan, Laborers Local Union 379 AFI-CIO; Farmer (present)

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Protested for fair property tax appraisals in Monongalia County (2011, featured in The Dominion Post), advocate for West Virginia Victims R US (attending rallies in Washington, D.C.), and former member of the West Virginia Association of Municipal Judges

EDUCATION: Attended St. Francis, Westover Jr. High, and a graduate of Morgantown High School, Completed 2 years of training in graphic arts; during this time I competed and won 1st and 2nd place in Job Interview competition at the West Virginia State Leadership Contest in Ripley, WV, and advancing on to Nationals held in Tusla, OK. Coaching certification. First aid trained. Completed Municipal Judge Training.

CIVIC EXPERIENCE/ACTIVITIES: Member of National Rifle Association; Worked with youth sports, coaching with multiple organizations. Assisted in fostering a child from Children’s Home Society, bringing him into our home to live and assisted him in enrolling into post-secondary education, as well as paying his tuition and fees. Special Olympics advocate. A former provider of community service hours through the Monongalia County probation office for approximately 6 years, working with young adults in completing community service hours. Attended the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Fourth Circuit, and heard trials at the WVU College of Law, an extraordinary opportunity to see a federal appellate court in my home state.

Why am I seeking a position as magistrate?

I am not a politician. I’m not going to stand here and tell you what you want to hear just to get your vote.

I will tell you this, I am for the people and the people’s rights, and I want to uphold the constitution. I believe everyone should be treated fairly with dignity and respect. I am compassionate towards what others are going through and promise to help them to the best of my ability. Furthermore, I will recuse myself from any case I feel as though I cannot be impartial.

I will not be asking for or receiving any campaign contributions, as I believe that these contributions can bring into question a magistrate’s ability to be fair and unbiased when making a decision. My campaign is completely self-funded.

I believe that Monongalia County people are ready for change. I also believe there should be term limits for every elected position. I can offer the people a choice in this election. Coming in as the common blue-collar worker, I will bring a different perspective into the courtroom, with fresh opinions and contrasting views.

THE ELECTION

I am running for Monongalia County Magistrate, Division 4. I am asking that you vote for me, Arlie Campbell, in Division 4.

Magistrates are elected during the primary election on May 14th. I would strongly encourage early voting to avoid long lines. Early voting will run from May 1st thru May 11th. If you are not registered to vote, you can register up until April 23rd. Every vote counts! Let your voice be heard!

Thank You,
Arlie Campbell
Candidate for Magistrate, Division 4
Monongalia County

Paid for by the Candidate

The Morgantown Public Library System serves communities across Monongalia County



The library levy is a vote to renew direct tax-based funding to the local library system. It currently makes up about 25% of the total operating budget for local library branches

Love your **COMMUNITY**
Love your **LIBRARY**

On May 14: Vote YES to renew the MPLS Levy

Paid for by the Vote for the MPLS Levy Committee

ELECTION INFORMATION FOR MONONGALIA COUNTY

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Early voting in Monongalia County has started. It will run through Saturday. Three locations are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Locations

- Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown (front side of Mall next to Mylan)
- Mason-Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core (in the red barn)
- Suncrest Towne Cen-

tre, 525 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive Suite 101, Morgantown

Primary Election Day is May 14.

Voting runs 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Election night begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Election Center. Canvassing of votes will begin at 9 a.m. May 20 at Election Center.

Find sample ballots for four political parties in today's pages: Democratic, Republican, Independent and Mountain.

U.S. PRESIDENT

DPNews@DominionPost.com

A dozen candidates are on the West Virginia ballot for U.S. president.

Four are Democratic, five are Republican and one is with the Mountain Party.

Candidates

- Joe Biden (I), Delaware, D
- Stephen P. Lyons, Maryland, D
- Armando "Mando"

Perez-Serrato, California, D

- Dean Phillips, Minnesota, D
- Ryan Binkley, Texas, R

- Nikki Haley, South Carolina, R
- David Stuckenberg, Florida, R

- Rachel Hannah MoHawk Swift, Maryland, R
- Donald Trump, Florida, R

- Jill Stein, Massachusetts, Mountain

U.S. HOUSE, DISTRICT 2

Dennis Cain, Hedgesville, R
Cain served in the U.S. Army from 1997 to 2000. His career experience includes working as a systems engineer, owning his cybersecurity business, Cain and Associates, and



Dennis Cain

working for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Veterans Administration, Defense Information Systems Agency, National Security Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He has been affiliated with ISC2, ISACA, DOD, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business and the Republican Party.

Joe Early, Bridgeport, R

Early is an Army veteran and was inducted as a life member into the prestigious United States Army Sergeant Audie L. Murphy Leadership Club.

He serves as a cybersecurity engineering professional in support of the federal workforce. He holds international skill certifications as an AWS



Joe Early

Certified Cloud Practitioner (CCP), an ISC2 Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP), ISC2 Certified Governance, Risk, and Compliance (CGRC) Professional, and a PMI Project Management Professional (PMP).

Early holds a Master of Science degree in technology management, with emphasis on information security, from Marshall University. He also has a Bachelor of Science degree (Magna Cum Laude) in occupational training and development from the University of Louisville.

Alex Gaaserud, Parkersburg, R

Gaaserud is a native and lifelong resident of Elkins. He graduated from Elkins High School in 2010, where he was a three-sport athlete.

Gaaserud founded the Young Republicans Club of Elkins High School in September 2008.

Gaaserud graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Davis and Elkins College.

He has worked at Third Party Logistics since graduation.

Riley Moore, Harpers Ferry, R

Moore was born in Morgantown. In addition to elective office, he has been a welder, a national security staffer for the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, a contract employee for the U.S. Department

of Homeland Security and an employee of the defense and aerospace firm Textron Inc.

He has a bachelor's degree from George Mason University, and a master's degree in strategic security studies from the National Defense University.

His aunt is Shelley Moore Capito and his cousin is Moore Capito.

Chris Walker, Martinsburg, R

Walker graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and spent 40 years in uniform.

He grew up in a big city and spent years stationed in



Chris Walker

sense.

Steven Wendelin, Lost River, D

Wendelin was born in San Mateo, Calif., and served in the U.S. Navy from 1984-2023. He earned a bachelor's degree from the California Maritime Academy in 1990, a graduate degree from the Marine Corps University in 2007, and a



Steven Wendelin

graduate degree from the National Defense University in 2014.

Wendelin has been affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Blacksmiths Guild of the Potomac, Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America and Free and Accepted Masons.

U.S. SENATE

Bryan Bird, Beckley, R

Bird was born in Charleston. His professional experience includes working as a pastor. He earned an associate degree from Glenville State College in 2005.

Jim Justice, Lewisburg, R

Justice is the governor of West Virginia. He assumed office Jan. 16, 2017. His current term ends on Jan. 13, 2025.

He was first elected governor



Jim Justice

Justice graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1969. He received an undergraduate degree and an M.B.A. from Marshall University.

Zane Lawhorn, Princeton, R

Lawhorn was born in Union, Monroe County, and lives in Princeton. He earned a high



Zane Lawhorn

school diploma from Union High School and a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University in 1980. He graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in 1985. He is an optometrist and business owner.

Don Lindsay, Baker, R

Lindsay lives in Baker, Hardy County.

He did not provide a photo or information to Ballotpedia.

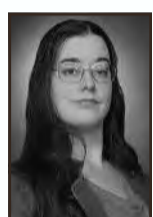
Bryan McKinney, Inwood, R

McKinney earned a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University in 2005. His career experience includes working in sales.

Janet McNulty, Martinsburg, R

McNulty was born on the Travis Air Force Base in California.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Northern State



Janet McNulty

University in 2006 and a graduate degree from Southern New Hampshire University in 2021. Her career experience includes working in the retail industry. McNulty is also a published author and has worked as an independent IT consultant.

Alex Mooney, Charles Town, R

Mooney is a member of the U.S. House, representing West Virginia's 2nd Congressional District. He assumed office Jan. 3, 2015. His cur-



Alex Mooney

rent term ends Jan. 3, 2025. Mooney was re-elected to his third term in the office Nov. 6, 2018, winning 54% of votes to defeat Talley Sergeant (D). He earned his B.A. in philosophy from Dartmouth College in 1993.

Don Blankenship, Sprigg, D

Blankenship was a Constitution Party candidate for U.S. president in 2020. He lost in the general election Nov. 3, 2020.

SEE U.S. SENATE, E-6

VOTE

MICHAEL SIMMS

FOR JUDGE

Service with Integrity

Endorsed by:

- Nearly 20 years of experience, with a 17-year solo law practice in Morgantown.
- The strongest record of public service for any Division 1 candidate.
- Focused on community safety.
- A promise to hear everyone fully, and to apply the law without favor.
- Planning a family treatment court to reduce the rates of child foster care placement.

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PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT SIMMS FOR JUDGE

PRESTON COUNTY

2024 school levy similar to previous measure, still needed

DPNews@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — The maintenance levy that Preston County voters are being asked to renew at the polls this year is similar to the levy that has benefited students over the last five years.

The levy is still necessary because there are still more needs in the system than the regular school levy, state and federal funds cover, Preston County School Superintendent Brad Martin and members of the county board of education say.

The levy will collect \$4,950,000 per year, a total of \$24,750,000 over five years. The money can only be spent for the purposes stated in the levy call, which is part of the ballot, and no more than the stated amounts can be collected from taxpayers.

The levy calls for these annual expenditures:

- \$1,900,000 for general maintenance, improvements and equipment. These can include projects detailed in the county's Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan; facility and grounds maintenance, repairs and

- upgrades; bathroom partitions, water refill stations; floor and ceiling tile replacement; door and window repairs and replacements; inside and outside light upgrades; fire equipment upgrades; bleacher repairs and replacement; HVAC upgrades and replacements; boiler upgrades and replacements; waste treatment plant maintenance, repairs and upgrades; emergency repairs; vehicle repairs, replacement and purchase; and equipment repairs and replacements; kitchen equipment replacements and other related expenses.

- \$810,000 for operational expenses, including utilities; HVAC contracts; filter service contracts; water treatment contracts; other service contracts; custodial equipment and supplies; full-time service personnel positions with benefits; extra-duty summer custodian/maintenance contracts and other related expenses.

- \$325,000 for health, safety and security, including but not limited to security cameras; keyless door entry; door core replacements; outside lighting; phones and intercom

- upgrades; alternative communication devices; parking lot gates with security; hardware, software and supplies; full-time or contracted resource officer and/or security officer; full-time or contracted athletic trainer for sporting events; registered nurse supplemental salaries; and related expenses.

- \$950,000 for classroom teachers, including full-time teachers with benefits; classroom teacher travel expenses and related expenses.

- \$200,000 for technology, including bandwidth upgrades; computer purchases, repairs, upgrades, software and contracting; technology related to professional development; full-time computer technicians with benefits; and related expenses.

- \$210,000 for curricular, extracurricular, co-curricular and athletic activities, including coaching base salaries and expenses (\$50,000); curricular and co-curricular required activity and competition fees, transportation and other related expenses (\$35,000); expenses and fees related to field trips, school competitions, transportation and

other related expenses. Funds totaling \$125,000 are also allocated to schools on a per pupil basis, which schools will decide how to spend.

- \$225,000 for instructional supplies and materials, including copy machines leases and supplies (\$75,000); instructional materials, copier paper, computer paper, writing paper, notebook paper, instructional supplies and equipment, and office operating expenses. Funds totaling \$150,000 will be allocated to schools on a per pupil basis.

- \$250,000 for alternative and educational programs, including salaries and benefit; instructional supplies, equipment, transportation and other related expenses.

- \$80,000 for community and school facility use, including utility expenses, custodial supplies, custodial fees, food service personnel fees, supervisory fees, and any other expenses related to the community and school use of board of education property.

Prior to the passage of the current levy, many of these expenses were put off

or simply off the table. For example, as coach and parent Craig Jennings recalled in a Facebook Live event held at South Preston Middle School to answer questions about the levy, grass was sometimes mowed only three times a summer before the levy helped to fund maintenance.

The levy pays for three custodial positions, as well as some teaching positions not covered by the state.

While Preston County Schools have been able to update and replace some schools through construction levies, long-term maintenance is paramount to keeping the buildings in good shape for the long-term, Martin has said.

Preston High, for example, graduated its first class 32 years ago. The vocational technical side of the building, which houses CTE courses taken by the majority of Preston High students, opened in the 1970s. Later came the Academic Center portion of the building, then the high school addition.

Preston County has 10 schools — Aurora School, Bruceton School, Central Preston Middle, Felloville Elementary, King-

wood Elementary, Preston High School, Rowlesburg School, South Preston School, Terra Alta/East Preston School and West Preston School. The proposed levy does not call for closing any of those.

Schools are used by communities for many functions, and, prior to passage of the current levy, community groups such as youth sports leagues were asked to pay a fee to use them, in order to cover the cost of utilities and custodial staff. They also had to fund coaches' salaries.

School security is addressed directly through the levy in multiple ways. The levy pays the salary of the full-time school resource officer — a Preston County deputy sheriff — at Preston High, as well as secure school entries and other measures.

Make your voice heard

Early voting will take place May 1-11 at the Preston County 911 Center on Rich Wolfe Drive, Kingwood. Early voting is open to everyone and will take place 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, during that time.

SCHOOL BOND

Calculate tax liability on website

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

DPNews@DominionPost.com

A new website will allow the public to calculate tax liability if the five-year, \$4,950,000 school levy is passed this month.

Brad Martin, superintendent of Preston County Schools, said preston-schoollevy.com will not only let county residents get information and calculate what their tax liability will be, it will also allow anyone interested to fill out a form to endorse the levy and make a contribution if they wish to do so.

"A list of projects the levy supports can also be found on that site," Martin said. "We have been able to do a lot with funds from the last levy, and we are grateful for the support we received in passing it."

In February 2019 Preston County passed a five-year levy that generated \$4.5 million per year, creating financial support for building upgrades and repairs, field trips, on-site learning experiences, instruction, office supplies, matching funds for grants, and additional personnel.

A few of the major projects paid for with levy funds are the bleachers at Central Preston and Preston High School (PHS), multiple roofing projects, HVAC at multiple schools, library renovations, paving at Bruceton, PHS, and Aurora, and gym refurbish-

ing at six schools

Martin said if the current levy passes, it will cost the tax payers less than what the last levy did. He said the new levy would become effective July 1. Martin said the current school bond will be paid off in 2026.

Preston County Schools lost 140 students this year to options like home-schooling, charter schools and other alternatives, and students are not all that has gone down in number. According to Martin, a combination of factors, including enrollment loss, loss of ESSER funds and possible loss of levy funding has led to the loss of 31 professional and 28 service personnel positions for this coming year.

"There are 10 teaching positions we could pick back up. That would help by having less students per classroom," Martin said. "But if there is no levy funds, funding those positions would have to come out of our regular budget."

He said the school district will also lose two technicians and will have to see if they can continue to maintain the higher cost of technology. Martin said ground maintenance would also have to be cut back, and the school will lose its resource officer unless an alternative funding source can be found.

Board Member Lucas

Tatham said as a community member, business owner and as a parent, he believes the county has an obligation to provide safe, secure buildings where teachers can teach the county's children.

"We were able to build some new schools with the money from the school bond," he said. "The levy provides funds to maintain and repair the schools. Tax payers have made a big investment in the school bond, and the levy has helped us keep the buildings up. We were able to fix small problems before they become big ones."

He said he believes the current levy is a reasonable and frugal one, and one that will keep up with repairs and keep the school going.

"We live in a state where there is freedom of education choice. There are charter schools, religious schools, there is home-schooling and online schooling," Tatham said. "The public school system, teachers everyone. We pick up students at their door, feed them, teach them and take them back home. I believe we have an ethical and moral obligation to take care of the county's children."

PRESTON SCHOOLLEVY.COM

PRESTON BOE

Beth Noss

Residence: Kingwood

Political experience: This is my first time running for office.



Beth Noss

County. I want to help the board continue to support the future leaders and inspire them to give back to their county.

Shelley Miller

Residence: Kingwood

Political experience: First time running for office.



Shelley Miller

community. I'm committed to ensuring that every decision made prioritizes the well-being and success of our students,

supports our dedicated educators and fosters strong connections within our community.

Debra Felton

Residence: born and raised in Preston County

Political experience: previously ran for the BOE two years ago, receiving the third highest number of votes.



Debra Felton

support, enrich and expand vocational education; strengthen academic excellence; evaluate possible over testing; expand emotional and mental health support to students and staff; address discipline issues; expand support to grandparents raising grandkids and foster open communication with parents, teachers, administrators and the general public.

Robert S. McCrum

Residence: Kingwood

Political experience: I am running for the Preston County Board of Education

for District 2. I previously held this office for 13 years.

Top priorities: My top priority is to represent all the people throughout the county.

I retired in 2002, but still substitute in many areas of the county. I see what I consider as things that we, the board, have to address. We have people who work for the board who are afraid to miss because we don't have enough substitutes to teach or work with their students. There are buses that don't pick up students because no subs are available to take the run. Things don't get done because no subs are available to be there.

We must get the Legislature to address this situation that is all over the state. We have neighboring states and counties that take our good young teachers because they are paying them thousands of dollars that we cannot pay. Jobs are not here in the county for our children to do so they leave us for higher paying ones. We have people who live in Preston County, but send their children to other counties, private schools and states for school.

Michael Hovatter is also running for a seat on the Preston County Board of Education, but did not respond in time for this report.

Get local news and sports in The Dominion Post or online at DominionPost.com



- ✓ **Mother of two Mon County students**
- ✓ **Educator with over 20 yrs experience**
- ✓ **Long time Mon County resident**
- ✓ **Focused on school and bus safety**



- ✓ **Defender of academic freedom for teachers**
- ✓ **Concerned for student welfare & social issues**

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For Families For the Working Class For the Constitution For Preston County For YOU



Public Servant, Not a Politician

Paid for by the Candidate

MON ASSESSOR

Two candidates unopposed until November

BY BEN CONLEY

BConley@DominionPost.com

Incumbent Democrat Mark Musick and Republican challenger Rich Jacobs are both unopposed in the primary election for Monongalia County Assessor.

Jacobs, 63, has sought office once previously, running an unsuccessful bid for West Virginia Senate in 2022.

He spent four years filling an appointment to the Monongalia County Building Commission (2014-18) and, most recently, worked as a field deputy in the assessor's office.

"I'm aware of discrepancies on assessments and found that a new assessor was required to address these issues," Jacobs said when asked why he's seeking the position.

He went to so say that he believes there needs to be a thorough review of commercial properties in the county.

Musick, 61, is seeking a fourth four-year term as the county's assessor — a goal he set when he first took office following the 2012 election.

"One of the things I said back then was I wanted to serve at least four terms,"

he said. "When I look at the progression we've made since I've been in office, and that's as a whole with the entire staff, we've been able to do a lot for the tax payers. But there's still some things I have left to do."

Musick said he believes the satellite sessions he's initiated across the county have been successful and will continue to grow. He's also

proud of the work his office has done with GIS and the implementation of the popular county parcel viewer.

Should he earn reelection, Musick said there will be a continued focus on integrating technology into the assessor's office.

"I've been very fortunate based off the relationships we've built with the public and that's nice because it's a difficult office at times,"

Musick said. "I just want to continue to move things forward. We're constantly brainstorming what are the best things that can be done to help taxpayers access this office."

EARLY VOTING CONTINUES THROUGH SATURDAY. ELECTION DAY IS MAY 14.

MONONGALIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE

Tonya Rogers

Division 6

Residence: I am a lifelong resident of Monongalia County. I have lived here for 48 years. I graduated from MHS and earned a bachelor's degree from WVU.

Previous candidacies or offices held: I have not run for public office before; this will be my first election. I am currently a deputy clerk at Mon County Magistrate Court.

Priorities if elected: Once elected I will work hard to follow the law and use empathy and compassion towards all. As a public servant I will listen and take the time that is necessary with each case be it civil or criminal. I will be fair and considerate in and out of the courtroom.

Sandy Holepit

Division 4

Residence: Originally from Harrison County, but Monongalia resident since 1970.

Previous candidacies or offices held: Magistrate for 16 years

Priorities if elected: I will continue to provide leadership, fairness, equality and impartial decisions. The citizens of Monongalia County deserve a court system they can depend on. During the past 16 years I have kept my promise to do the best job I can to ensure public trust and safety.

Curt Thomas

Division 6

Residence: I am from Wadestown, in the western end of Monongalia County.

Previous candidacies or offices held: This is my first time running for any office.

Priorities if elected: Mag-

istrates are required to be fair and unbiased. They must listen to all the facts presented and make a ruling based on those facts. If elected, I will draw from my Christian upbringing and my 27-plus years in law enforcement to apply the state code fairly and within the boundaries of the office.

William "Pete" Tennant

Division 3

Residence: I'm a lifelong resident of Monongalia County and have always resided in the Cassville District. I attended schools in that general area: Cassville Elementary, Cass Junior High School and University High.

Previous candidacies or offices held: 24 years as a deputy sheriff under civil service. This prohibits holding or campaigning for public office.

Priorities if elected: I would strive to follow the West Virginia State Code, the rules of conduct for the court and use common sense to make decisions in the best interest of our community. Additionally, I pride myself on being a person who is an outstanding listener, tries to understand the situation before me and always acts in a fair and balanced manner. The magistrate system is the first level of the judiciary. When people find themselves appearing before a magistrate, it can be a stressful time. I believe it is important they encounter a magistrate who will follow the law in a firm, fair and equitable manner — at the same time they will encounter a person who is kind and compassionate.

Mark Myers

Division 6

Residence: A Morgantown native, husband, father and granddad. A graduate of Morgantown High School and studied business law at Fairmont State University and then business economics at West Virginia University.

Previous candidacies or offices held: Mark worked over 25 years for the Monongalia County Board of Education, being the first individual to be elected and reelected five times as Monongalia County district supervisor. Additionally, during his work with Monongalia County, Mark was appointed as chairman and director.

Priorities if elected: Mark hopes to create a safer community for the friends, families and visitors throughout Monongalia County.

Charles D. Hartzog

Division 3

Residence: I was born in Alabama and grew up in the Mid-Ohio Valley on both sides of the Ohio River, primarily in Athens, Ohio, and Parkersburg. However, Morgantown is my choice to stay.

Previous candidacies or offices held: I ran for county commissioner in 2022.

Priorities if elected: My goals as magistrate are to ensure everyone, including the disenfranchised, receive a fair and impartial trial, to minimize crime in the fastest growing city in the state and to keep the control of the future in the hands of the future.

Four candidates for Monongalia County magistrate did not respond in time for this report.

They are Ron Bane (Division 1), Tim Pocius (Division 2), Arlie Campbell (Division 4), Ponch Reyes (Division 5).

MONONGALIA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Natalie J. Sal

Monongalia County Circuit Judge, Division 1.

Residence: I was born and raised in Morgantown and have been a lifelong resident of Monongalia County.

Prior candidacies or offices held: I have not held office or run before.

Priorities if elected: My top priority is to serve all people who seek justice in our court system with fairness and integrity. As a lawyer and community advocate, I have sought justice and provided a

voice for some of the most vulnerable members of our community, worked with local businesses who help our county to thrive, and partnered with people from every walk of life to solve problems facing our community. It is critically important that all people have equal access to seek justice in our courts in order to meet challenges facing our community, and if I am elected, I am committed to providing that opportunity to all who appear before me.

Michael Simms

Circuit Court Judge — Division 1, Monongalia County

Residence: I was raised in Calhoun and Wirt counties. I received my undergraduate degree from WVU in 2000, my



Michael Simms

Office, in 2007. I have resided here since that time.

Prior candidacies or offices held: I was a candidate for Circuit Court Judge in Monongalia County in 2020.

Priorities if elected: I will create a Family Treatment Court, providing accelerated services and treatment to parents suffering from substance misuse, enabling more children to be raised in healthy

homes and reducing the rates of foster care placement.

My promise is to fully hear everyone who comes before the court. Whether it's a civil case, a criminal case or another matter, I will apply the law equally and without favor, using fairness at all times.

I will work to protect us from those who may wish to do us harm, creating a safer community for my family and yours.

Paul W. Gwaltney Jr.

Circuit Judge, Division 1 of the 21st Judicial Circuit

Residence: Morgantown for the last 20 years

Previous candidacies or offices held: I am currently circuit judge, Division 1 of



Paul Gwaltney

she retired. I have never previously run for an elected position.

Priorities if elected: "Equal justice for all" demands that a judge treat all with the utmost respect with one singular goal: rule correctly. A judge's job is not to mediate, it is to rule on the issues before the court and only those issues. Since my appointment to the bench, I have diligently prepared for

each hearing through a meticulous review of the court files and the applicable law.

Regardless of whether I rule in someone's favor, it is important to me that they understand that I came prepared to actively engage on the issues at hand with a sincere desire to come to the correct ruling. There are numerous issues that our community is facing, but the court's duty is not to be a policy maker, it is to rule on cases and controversies based upon the applicable law and facts.

Two candidates for Monongalia County Circuit Court judges did not respond.

They are Cindy Scott (Division 2) and Perri Jo DeChristopher (Division 3). Both are running unopposed.

MONONGALIA COUNTY SHERIFF

Todd Forbes

Residence: Pursglove

Political experience: Never ran or held any political office

Top priorities: Our community is changing and is being confronted by problems different than any time in our lifetime. I will make sure I am on top of all emerging issues to make sure that we do everything possible to make sure our citizens are safe in their houses, on our streets and in our schools. I have been involved in these emerging issues for years — like the drug problem facing our country. Since the time it



Todd Forbes

emerged, I have been on the front line looking for solutions and making sure the people who violate our laws are held to account.

Specifically, I have served for over 16 years as a member of the task force focused on taking down the drug problem and trafficking in our community. Through volunteering to support my children's activities and my professional career, I

know what is needed in Mon County to protect both our senior citizens and younger kids. I will work to ensure that our senior citizens are safe and secure in their homes and fight scams that prey on older Americans. In collaboration with the schools, I will work tirelessly to ensure Mon County is a safe place to go to school, to raise our children and provide family communities that are a safe place to play, learn and grow up.

Jason Morgan, of Westover, is running for sheriff on the Republican ticket. He did not respond in time for this report.

MONONGALIA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Gabrielle Mucciola

Mucciola, of Morgantown, is running unopposed for Monongalia County prosecutor on the Democratic ticket. She did not respond in time for this report.

There are no other candidates for Monongalia County prosecutor.

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The Dominion Post

Current Circuit Court Judge
17th Judicial Circuit,
Monongalia County

Dedicated to serving Monongalia County

Following 17 years as a civil litigator, Judge Paul Gwaltney was appointed by Governor Jim Justice in 2023.

He was sworn into office on June 2.

Judge Gwaltney is a graduate of the WVU College of Law & has been a member of the West Virginia Bar since October 2003.

He wants all who come before him, win or lose, to leave saying that the litigant was treated with respect, and Judge Gwaltney came with the sincerest desire to get it right.

keepjudgegwaltney.com

Paid for by the Committee to Keep Judge Paul Gwaltney. Jesse Bumps, Treasurer.



ATTORNEY GENERAL

J.B. McCuskey
Residence: Charleston
Party: Republican
Prior political experience: West Virginia House of Delegates: 2012-16, current state auditor 2016-present



J.B. McCuskey

Throughout my time in the Legislature and as auditor, I have made it my mission to reform the bureaucracy. As your next attorney general, through the relationships I have built with law enforcement officers, municipal officials and small business owners, I plan to fiercely defend the freedoms we cherish. Our industry will be protected from ridiculous overreach to ensure the Mountain State's ability to shape its own destiny, and build an economy that fits our citizens' vision for the future.

Mike Stuart
Residence: South Charleston
Party: Republican

Prior political experience: State senator 7th District, representing Kanawha, Boone, Lincoln and Logan counties; former U.S. attorney, Southern District of West Virginia; former chair, West Virginia State Republican Party



Mike Stuart

Virginia State Republican Party

Top priorities if elected: Many of the things I've done as the United States attorney: Intensely attack the opiate and drug scourge; continue and expand the battle against federal overreach, including fighting for our ability to drill, frack and mine; target fraud and corruption, including elder, Medicaid, and CPS; defend parents' and children's freedoms from "system overreach"; support law enforcement and veterans; and protect and defend the Second Amendment.

Richie Robb
Party: Democrat
Residence: South Charleston

Education: BA, Marshall University; JD, Capital University
Prior political experience: President of senior class at Marshall; member of West Virginia State Democratic Party Executive Committee; licensed to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States; mayor of South Charleston eight consecutive terms from 1975-2007.



Richie Robb

Top priorities if elected: Fighting against exorbitant utility rate increases; expand and better publicize consumer protection, particularly fraud which has grown exponentially with the internet and now AI; combat white collar crime and public corruption, installing a hot-line for anonymous tips to overcome this.

Teresa Toriseva
 Did not respond

SECRETARY OF STATE

Thornton Cooper, D
 Thornton Cooper is a native and resident of South Charleston, an attorney, and a retired state employee.



Thornton Cooper

Between 2006 and 2015 he served on the Kanawha County Democratic Executive Committee. Since 2011, he has also been serving as a committeeman for his ward on the South Charleston Democratic Executive Committee and as the secretary of the SCDEC. He is currently the acting chairman of the SCDEC.

Cooper earned his B.A. in political science from Yale University in 1972 and his J.D. from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1978.

Ken Reed, R

Reed was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 59, Dec. 1, 2020, to Dec. 1, 2022.

He graduated from Brooke High School in 1986. Reed earned a degree from the West Virginia School of Pharmacy in 1992. His career experience includes found-

ing and working as the CEO of Reed's Pharmacy. He served on four committees 2021-22: House Banking and Insurance, House Health and Human Resources, Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse and Technology & Infrastructure Committee.

Douglas Skaff Jr., R
 Skaff was a Democratic member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 57, Dec. 1, 2022, to Sept. 8, 2023.



Douglas Skaff Jr.

On Oct. 12, 2023, he switched party registration from Democrat to Republican to pursue the Republican nomination for West Virginia Secretary of State.

Skaff was born in Charleston and lives in South Charleston. He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from West Virginia University in 2000 and a master's degree in labor and industrial relations from WVU in 2001.

Skaff's career experience includes working as the vice president of Skaff Development and a principal partner with Skaff Family Limited.

While a delegate, he was on several committees: Economic Development, minority vice chair; House Finance, House Rules, minority chair; House Government Organization and others.

Brian Wood, R

Wood was born in and lives in West Virginia. His career experience includes working as the Putnam County clerk for over 19 years.



Brian Wood

Kris Warner, R

Warner began his professional career in real estate and finance in Morgantown.

He served as chairman of the Monongalia County and West Virginia GOP



Kris Warner

He was appointed by Gov. Jim Justice to lead the WVEDA.

AUDITOR

- Caleb Hanna, Charleston, R
- Eric Householder, Martinsburg, R
- Mark Hunt, Charleston, R
- Tricia Jackson, Harpers Ferry, R
- Mary Ann Roebuck Claytor, St. Albans, D

TREASURER

- Larry Pack, Charleston, R

STATE SUPREME COURT

C. Haley Bunn

Residence: Charleston
Education: bachelor's degree and a juris doctor from West Virginia University in 2007 and 2010, respectively.

Career experience: a lawyer in private practice and an assistant U.S. attorney with the Southern District of West Virginia

Charles S. Trump IV

Residence: Morgan County

Education: B.A. from Princeton University in 1982 and his J.D. from West Virginia University College of Law in 1985.

Political experience: West Virginia state senator, representing District 15, since Dec. 1, 2014. His current term ends on Dec. 1, 2026.

Career experience: An attorney and the Morgan County prosecuting attorney from 1988 until his election as a delegate in 1992. He is a small business owner.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

- Joshua Higginbotham, Charleston, R
- Kent Leonhardt (I), Fairview, R
- Roy Ramey, Lesage, R
- Deborah Stiles, D

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS

- Elgine Heceta McArdle, Wheeling
- Mychal Shulz, Charleston
- S. Ryan White, Charleston

MON SCHOOL LEVY

Bond could build new school

THIS ARTICLE was part of one published in February on this bond levy and all excess levies on the ballot.

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The Monongalia County Board of Education is asking county taxpayers to put up just over \$142.6 million for the construction of the Renaissance Academy.

According to information provided to the Monongalia County Commission, the new science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

focused career center is expected to cost \$159,440,000.

Of that, the BOE hopes to generate \$142,640,000 through a bond levy to "plan, develop, acquire, design, build, equip and furnish" the facility planned for a 135-acre site near Cassville.

If approved, the levy would cost taxpayers 10.4 cents per \$100 assessed value on Class II property and 20.8 cents per \$100 on Class III and IV property.

According to information provided with the

levy language, the bonds shall include an interest rate not to exceed 6% annually. While it's not explained how long repayment of the bonds is anticipated to take, "they shall be payable for a maximum term of 30 years and nine months."

Currently, the BOE and district has outstanding bonded indebtedness of \$25,634,185 for which taxes have been levied.

Bond levies require a simple majority for passage while excess levies require a 60% majority.

NO NEED TO WAIT TO CAST YOUR BALLOT. EARLY VOTING RUNS THROUGH SATURDAY. ELECTION DAY IS MAY 14.

U.S. SENATE

FROM PAGE E-3

Blankenship was the chief executive of Massey Energy Co., the leading producer of coal in Appalachia, from 2000-10. He resigned following the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in April 2010 that killed 29 miners. He was convicted of conspiring to willfully violate safety standards and served one year in prison for the misdemeanor.

Blankenship graduated from Marshall University and passed the CPA exam in 1972. He worked for the Keebler Co. and Flower's Industry before starting at Massey



Don Blankenship

Energy in 1982.

Glenn Elliott, Wheeling, D



Glenn Elliott

Elliott was born in and lives in Wheeling. He graduated from The Linsly School in 1990. He earned bachelor's degrees in finance and political science from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in 1994 and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2001.

Elliott also received honorary doctorate degrees from Wheeling University and West Liberty University. His career experience includes working as a Real Estate broker and an attorney. He also worked

as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd from 1994-99. Elliott served as mayor of Wheeling for two terms. He has been affiliated with the Rotary Club of Wheeling.

Zachary Shrewsbury, Princeton, D



Zachary Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury was born in Ripley. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2010-15. Shrewsbury's career experience includes working as a community activist. He has worked in climate justice for a progressive veteran's organization and as a community organizer for climate and labor center organizations.

Secretary of State reminds voters, candidates and political committees to turn to trusted sources for election information

DPNews@DominionPost.com

A verbal complaint was made to the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office calling attention to inaccurate election information being sent to West Virginia voters by a statewide candidate or committee.

According to WV Secretary of State Mac Warner, it appears as if thousands of West Virginia voters received text messages communicating the incorrect dates for early voting and Election

Day.

By state law, Warner reminds voters that early voting in West Virginia begins May 1, and the Primary Election Day is May 14.

Secretary Warner said that voters should rely on only trusted sources for election information. Those sources are the county clerks and the WV Secretary of State's Office.

"Even well-intended organizations and candidate committees encour-

aging voters to participate in the election process get the information wrong sometimes," Warner said. "Those organizations, candidates, political parties, and political action committees should always refer voters to their county clerk or Secretary of State's website."

For all reliable election-related information, please visit GoVoteWV.com

Re-Elect Magistrate

Sandy Holepit

Division 4

- 16 Years Experience and Dedication
- Adjudicated 40,000+ Cases
- Lifelong West Virginian
- WVU Graduate/Certified Teacher
- Firm but Fair
- Endorsed by Mon/Preston Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 87
- Endorsed by WV Troopers Association
- Endorsed by United Mine Workers



Together we make a difference

SANDY HOLEPIT

Ad paid for by committee to re-elect Sandy Holepit



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HOUSE OF DELEGATES — DISTRICTS 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82



Joe Statler
 District 77
Residence: Core
Party: Republican
Political experience: Incumbent delegate



Geno Chiarelli
 District 78
Residence: Morgantown
Party: Republican
Political experience: Incumbent delegate



Diane Market Gaston
 District 79
Residence: Morgantown
Party: Democrat
Political experience: First elected in 2018 and has served in the House of Delegates for six years. Minority chair of the Energy and Manufacturing Committee; Minority chair of the Natural Resources Committee; serves on the Judiciary, Workforce Development, and Political Subdivisions committees.



Evan Hansen
 District 80
Residence: Morgantown
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Incumbent delegate



John Williams
 District 81
Residence: Morgantown
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Incumbent delegate



Summer Hartley
 District 82
Residence: Morgantown
Party: Republican
Political experience: Served on the West Virginia



Anitra Hamilton
 Lottery Commission for 11 years. Currently an executive committee member of the West Virginia Golf Association and serve on the Architecture Advisory Board of the WVU Davis College of Architecture, Natural Resources and Design. Formerly served on the visiting committee of the WVU School of Business and Economics and the Mon County Development Authority (now part of the Partnership) and the Leadership Council of the WVU Cancer Institute.



David McCormick
Residence: Morgantown
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Elected to the House of Delegates in 1986 to represent Wheeling/Ohio County. I



Bill Reger-Nash
 served on the House Finance Committee and was the only freshman House legislator to serve as a Finance Sub-committee chair.
Top priorities if elected: I am a proud West Virginian focused on people, not politics. My years of collaborative work in industry, law-making and teaching taught me that finding common ground with others is the key to success. I will work across party lines to serve the best interests of everyone in District 82. I especially value education, community prosperity, good health and public safety. I will listen.



Mai-Lyn Sadler
Residence: Morgantown

Party: Democrat
Political experience: Elected to WVU Student Government, served as a senator-at-large for one term
Top priorities if elected: Our public education systems are struggling, teachers are underpaid and universities are facing a financial crisis. Working families are receiving little to no benefits, while cars are damaged by pothole-filled roads. West Virginian women are unable to make private healthcare decisions with their families and doctors. I'll attack these issues head-on, by working with and for my community, ensuring a better future for them and their families.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES — DISTRICTS 52, 73, 83, 84

Justin Hough
 District 52
Party: Republican
Residence: Kingwood
Political experience: As a first-time candidate, I plan to use my experience as an educator and a non-commissioned officer in the National Guard and apply it to the political realm. Politically, I am a clean-slate, but over the years have actively followed politics on both the state and national levels.



Justin Hough
Top priorities: I welcome the opportunity to serve and represent the citizens of Preston County and the great state of West Virginia. As a 15-year veteran currently serving in

the West Virginia Army National Guard, I have served my community, state and country while living the Army values and staying true to the statement, "For God, Family and Country."

Fred Guidi
 District 73
Party: Republican
Residence: Grafton
Political experience: First time running for office
Top priorities: If elected, I plan to work to increase transparency with the DHHR and CPS, and to eliminate the secretive nature of these two agencies. I will work to increase the availability of



Fred Guidi
 public transportation and broadband in Taylor County and throughout the state. I will support daycare assistance legislation, for single parents who want to enter the workforce. I will introduce legislation that will increase penalties for DUI with fatalities, child abuse and neglect, and the distribution of fentanyl. I will work to lower the costs of prescription drugs, and to further reduce taxes. In Taylor County I will raise money for an aquatic center with indoor exercise options so that our kids won't have to leave the county for swim practice and meets, and our seniors will have a place to exercise out of the weather. Additionally, I will craft legislation making it easier to seize nuisance properties that are a danger to the community. Finally, and probably most importantly, I will work with PEIA administrators

to lower costs by eliminating waste, and to stabilize the program for the state's employees.

George Street
 District 83
Party: Republican
Residence: Masontown
Political experience: I'm the incumbent for House of Delegates, District 83, and I am seeking reelection.
Top priority: It is my goal to continue the fight to bring common-sense to state government. I simply want to make our government work more efficiently. It should be about what we can actually get done, not what will make headlines.

Bryan Smith
 District 83
Party: Republican
Residence: Grafton
Top priorities: Defending the Second Amendment: staunchly supports citizens' right to bear arms, ensuring their safety and freedom. Right to Life: advocates for the sanctity of life, standing up for the vulnerable and promoting a culture of compassion. Healthcare Reform: aims to prevent insurance companies from denying crucial medical treatments. Comprehensive rehabilitation programs: envisions a West Virginia where every county offers robust drug and alcohol rehab services. Educators: prioritizes better pay for teachers, school staff and bus drivers. Infrastructure: believes West Virginia needs to invest in better roads and infrastructure. Veterans'

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health: will fight for free healthcare for veterans.

D. Rolland Jennings
 District 84
Party: Republican
Residence: Evansville Pike
Political experience: I am currently the 84th district delegate

Top priorities: I want to continue to work on fire and EMS recruitment and retention. I want to help allow teachers to teach as they see fit. And as always, I am a big advocate for integrity and liberty. Also running in District 73 is Rick Wolfe of Bridgeport. He did not respond.



D. Rolland Jennings

HOUSE OF DELEGATES — DISTRICTS 74, 75, 76

Frankie Delapas
 District 74
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Served as student government president of Fairmont State University, his alma mater; running on a platform to improve workers' wages and roads across the state.

Michael DeVault
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Republican
Political experience: Local business owner and incumbent delegate who wants to make the state's Business and Occupation tax more amenable to start-ups and companies locating here.

Phil Mallow
 District 75
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Republican
Political experience: Incumbent delegate

David Kennedy
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Republican
Political experience: Served on Fairmont City Council; will seek substantial raises for teachers if elected and will call for greater scrutiny of levies to make sure the measures are doing what they were intended to do.

Stephanie Spears Tomana
Residence: Idamay, Marion County
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Did not respond

Rick Garcia
 District 76
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Former president of the Marion County Commission

Toby Heaney
Residence: Fairview, Marion



Phil Mallow
 County
Party: Republican
Political experience: A combat veteran, Heaney has served as president of the Marion County Veterans Council and as commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 629, in Fairmont.



Toby Heaney

Jon Dodds
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Republican
Political experience: Did not respond



Michael DeVault

STATE SENATE — DISTRICTS 2, 13, 14

Mike Maroney
 District 2
Residence: Glen Dale, Marshall County
Party: Republican
Political experience: Incumbent senator

Chris Rose
Residence: Madsville, Monongalia County
Party: Republican
Political experience: First-time candidate, running on three key platforms: The elimination of the state income tax to lighten the burden on residents while encouraging economic growth; the defense of coal, oil, and gas jobs to support local economies and maintain vital industries. A focus on attracting new businesses to West Virginia, to create job opportunities and stimulate economic development.

Joey Garcia
 District 13
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Democrat
Political experience: Current member of the House of Delegates and past legislative appointee; running on a senate platform to strengthen healthcare while also enhancing funding for public schools and colleges.

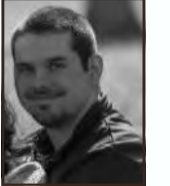
Jonathan Board
Residence: Fairmont
Party: Republican
Political experience: Suspended campaign to take a job directing West Virginia First Foundation

Randy Smith
 District 14
Residence: Terra Alta
Party: Republican
Political experience: Incumbent senator

Betsy Orndoff-Sayers
Residence: Wardensville, Hardy County
Party: Mountain
Political experience: Current mayor of Wardensville (second term); as a senator, would work to improve student test scores in reading and math; would advocate for adequate housing and more effective treatments to combat addiction in West Virginia.



Mike Maroney



Chris Rose



Joey Garcia



Randy Smith



MARK MYERS

DIVISION 6

MAGISTRATE

★ Resourceful Problem Solver

★ Determined ★ Dependable

★ Reliable

Paid for by Candidate

PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION

Samantha Stone
Residence: Reedsville
Political experience: I am seeking reelection to the office of Preston County Commission. I was elected to serve in 2019.

As a commissioner I am appointed annually to serve on several boards/committees. I am actively serving on the Farmland Protection Board, executive board member of the Preston County Economic Development Authority, 911 Advisory Committee and the Local Emergency Planning Commission. I have served as a commissioner in recent years on the Workforce West Virginia Board of Directors and the Extension Service Committee.

Top priorities: I have worked hard during my tenure for many issues outside of my fiscal responsibility to fund Preston County elected officials, maintain county facilities and provide public services. Continue to build relationships across county, state and federal elected officials and organizations maximizing the services for our citizens and tourism purposes. I will continue to work diligently, promoting economic growth while staying true to our roots and rural lifestyle that we all love. Good roads, public utility expansion, jobs, public health,

safety and drug-related issues will continue to be priorities.

Nichole Larew
Residence: I live in the same house I grew up in, in Thornton, right outside of Newburg.

Political experience: This is my first time running for a political office, but have been a small business owner for 25-plus years. I am a first responder, director of the Newburg Grows food pantry and active community volunteer.

Top priorities: I am very aware of the needs of our community, which is why as county commissioner my priorities will be fostering opportunity through economic development, improving public transportation accessibility, ensuring access to affordable child and elder care, prioritizing emergency services for community safety, rebuilding infrastructure for sustainable growth, supporting small business for local prosperity, upholding our constitutional values and being a true voice for the people.

Dan Loughrie
Residence: Rowlesburg
Political experience: Preston County sheriff for eight years. I was dedicated to serving our residents with

integrity then and will as a commissioner.

Top priorities: While I served those years with many accomplishments, I had a working relationship with the commission and know we have to work together for a stronger county. We need to stay in tune with these changing and challenging times to attract and keep our businesses. Our infrastructure system is more important now than ever. We are a large county with various needs.

We are having a lot of turnover in many county offices. This is costing us time and money to train and re-train. Instead, we should train and re-train our employees. An example of this is the number of deputies we've hired and paid to send to the academy only to lose them upon graduation to other agencies. Our employees take care of us, so we need to take care of them. I would also like to see the jail vs. home confinement issue addressed. The regional jail bill is an enormous expense on our taxpayers. We have to make good choices with our hard earned money. I will work tirelessly to promote safety, prosperity and unity. As always, I believe in transparency, accountability and collaboration to build a better future together.

2020 ELECTION INTERFERENCE

Some key players still in politics after voter fraud allegations

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As Donald Trump seeks a return to the White House, criminal charges are piling up for the people who tried to help him stay there in 2020 by promoting false theories of voter fraud.

At least five states that were won in 2020 by President Joe Biden have investigated efforts to install slates of electors who would cast Electoral College votes for Trump despite his loss. Those slates were to be used by Trump allies in the House and Senate to justify delaying or blocking the certification of the election during the joint session of Congress on Jan. 6, 2021, which was disrupted by pro-Trump rioters storming the Capitol.

Several of those charged or accused of involvement in election interference across the states are still involved in Republican politics today — including the lawyer overseeing “election integrity” for the Republican National Committee.

Here’s a look at the sprawling web of allegations, criminal charges and references to people in Trump’s orbit as unindicted co-conspirators.

Trump

The former president faces state charges in Georgia and federal charges in Washington over efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss and has been identified as an unindicted co-conspirator by investigators in Arizona and Michigan.

The Georgia charges came in a racketeering indictment in Fulton County in August that accused Trump and 18 others of participating in a wide-ranging scheme — that included the Republican elector effort — to illegally try to overturn his narrow loss in the state.

Trump is the only one charged in the federal indictment in Washington, but several close associates are recognizable as unindicted co-conspirators.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and the U.S. Supreme Court is weighing his arguments that he should be immune from prosecution. He has clinched his third straight Republican nomination for president.

Giuliani

Racketeering and conspiracy are among the charges the former New York mayor and Trump-aligned attorney faces in Georgia. In Arizona, the charges against him have not yet been made public.

In Michigan, a state investigator has testified that Rudy Giuliani is among several high-profile unindicted co-conspirators in a case against Republicans who signed elector certificates falsely saying Trump had won the state.

He’s also an unindicted co-conspirator in the federal indictment in Washington, which cites comments he made at the “Stop the Steal” rally prior to the Capitol riot.

His spokesman, Ted Goodman, said in a statement Thursday that the “continued weaponization of our justice system should concern every American as it does permanent, irrevocable harm to the country.”

Bobb

Christina Bobb is a lawyer and conservative media personality charged in Arizona with conspiracy, fraud and forgery. She worked closely with Giuliani as he tried to persuade Arizona lawmakers to block the certification of the election results. She later raised money for a discredited audit of the election results in Mari-

copa County and covered the spectacle for One America News Network.

As a lawyer for Trump, Bobb signed a letter stating that a “diligent search” for classified records had been conducted and that all such documents had been given back to the government before an FBI search revealed dozens of protected documents at his Mar-a-Lago residence.

She was recently tapped to oversee “election integrity” efforts at the Republican National Committee.

Asked about Bobb’s role with the RNC, Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung accused Democrats of “weaponization of the legal system.”

Epshteyn

A longtime Trump aide, Boris Epshteyn was charged with conspiracy, fraud and forgery in Arizona, where a grand jury accused him of assisting with the fake electors plan.

He’s a lawyer who has been by Trump’s side for some of the former president’s own court appearances, including Thursday and Friday in New York.

Epshteyn was a principal surrogate in the 2016 presidential campaign, making frequent television appearances. He briefly served as a senior White House adviser before becoming an analyst for Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Meadows

Trump’s White House chief is charged in the sweeping Georgia racketeering indictment, but not in connection with the Republican elector meeting. Among other things, he participated in a January 2021 phone call between Trump and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger during which the then-president urged the elections official to help “find” the votes needed to overturn his narrow loss in the state.

Mark Meadows’ charges in Arizona are not publicly known. He was also identified by the Michigan state investigator as an unindicted co-conspirator.

His attorney, George Terwilliger, referred to Wednesday’s indictment in Arizona as a “blatantly political and politicized accusation and will be contested and defeated.”

Meadows now works for the Conservative Policy Institute, a Washington think tank that describes his role as leading “strategic initiatives on Capitol Hill, with other partner organizations, and with grassroots activists across the country.”

Eastman

A former dean of Chapman University’s law school in Southern California, John Eastman wrote a memo arguing that Trump could remain in power if then-Vice President Mike Pence overturned the results of the electoral certification during a joint session of Congress using the slates of Republican electors from the battleground states.

The charges against him in Georgia include racketeering and conspiracy, while he’s charged in Arizona with conspiracy, fraud and forgery. He’s also named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the federal indictment, which quotes his remarks at the Jan. 6, 2021, “Stop the Steal” rally in Washington.

He has pleaded not guilty to the charges in Georgia and his lawyer Charles Burnham said he’s innocent of the charges in Arizona.

Ellis

Jenna Ellis was charged in the Georgia indictment after she appeared with Giuliani at a December 2020 hearing hosted by state Republican lawmakers at the Georgia Capitol during which false allegations of election fraud were made. She pleaded guilty in October to one felony count of aiding and abetting false statements and writings after reaching a deal with prosecutors. She wasn’t charged in connection with the Republican electors efforts in Georgia.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether she had a lawyer in Arizona who could comment on the conspiracy, fraud and forgery charges she faces there.

Roman

A Trump campaign staffer and onetime White House aide, Michael Roman was charged with several conspiracy counts related to the Republican elector meeting and the filing of the elector certificate in Georgia. He was also charged in Arizona with conspiracy, fraud and forgery.

Roman has pleaded not guilty to the charges in Georgia. It wasn’t immediately clear whether he had a lawyer in Arizona yet.

Chesebro

Kenneth Chesebro, a lawyer, worked with Republicans in multiple swing states to coordinate and execute the Trump elector plan. He was charged with racketeering and several conspiracy counts in relation to that work in Georgia and in October reached a deal with prosecutors to plead guilty to one felony charge of conspiracy to commit filing false documents.

Chesebro is an unindicted co-conspirator in Trump’s federal election indictment, which says he “assisted in devising and attempting to implement a plan to submit fraudulent slates of presidential electors to obstruct the certification proceeding.”

He was also named in the Wisconsin civil lawsuit, and when he turned over documents to settle that suit he didn’t admit liability but promised never to participate in similar efforts.

Powell

A lawyer and unflinching Trump ally, Sidney Powell was charged with racketeering and conspiracy charges in Georgia but was not implicated in the elector scheme. The Fulton County indictment accused her of participating in an unauthorized breach of elections equipment in a rural Georgia county elections office. She pleaded guilty in October to six misdemeanors accusing her of conspiring to intentionally interfere with the performance of election duties after reaching a deal with prosecutors.

She’s an unindicted co-conspirator in the federal election interference case, where prosecutors say she filed a lawsuit in Georgia that amplified false or unsupported claims of election fraud.

Clark

Jeffrey Clark was a U.S. Justice Department official who championed Trump’s false claims of election fraud. He was charged in Georgia with racketeering and criminal attempt to commit false statements and writings after he presented colleagues with a draft letter pushing Georgia officials to convene a special legislative session on the election results.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges in Georgia.

MONONGALIA COUNTY POLLING PLACES

- Precinct 1: Mountainview Elementary School, 661 Green Bag Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 2A & 2B: Morgantown High School, 109 Wilson Ave., Morgantown
- Precinct 10: Mountaineer Middle School, 991 Price St., Morgantown
- Precinct 13: Mountaineer Middle School, 991 Price St., Morgantown
- Precinct 16: BOPARC Senior Recreation Center, 287 Eureka Drive, Morgantown
- Precinct 23: St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, 3346 University Ave., Morgantown
- Precinct 25: St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, 3346 University Ave., Morgantown
- Precinct 26: Suncrest Middle School, 360 Baldwin St., Morgantown
- Precinct 30: Marilla Recreation Center, 799 E. Brockway Ave.,
- Precinct 31: Eastwood Elementary School, 677 201st INF/FA Memorial Way, Morgantown
- Precinct 32: Eastwood Elementary School, 677 201st INF/FA Memorial Way, Morgantown
- Precinct 33: Brookhaven Elementary School, 1215 Baker St., Morgantown
- Precinct 34: University High School, 131 Bakers Ridge Road, Morgantown

- Precinct 35: Mountainview Elementary School, 661 Green Bag Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 36: St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, 3346 University Ave., Morgantown
- Precinct 38: Brookhaven Elementary School, 1215 Baker St., Morgantown
- Precinct: 40 Mason-Dixon Elementary School, 7041 Mason-Dixon Hwy., Blacksville
- Precinct 44: Granville Social Hall, 172 Town Hall St., Granville
- Precinct 47: Scott’s Run VFD (Cassville), 719 Mason-Dixon Hwy., Morgantown
- Precinct 51: Clay-Battelle High School, 6226 Mason-Dixon Hwy., Blacksville
- Precinct 51M: Clay-Battelle High School, 6226 Mason-Dixon Hwy., Blacksville
- Precinct 52: Mason-Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core
- Precinct 58: Mylan Park Elementary, 901 Mylan Park Lane, Morgantown
- Precinct 59: Smittstown School Community Center, 56 Smittstown School Road
- Precinct 61: Ridgedale Elementary School, 1550 Goshen Road
- Precinct 62: Triune-Halleck VFD, 1621 Halleck Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 63: Mountainview Elementary School, 661 Green Bag Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 64: Skyview Elementary School, 668 River

- Road, Westover
- Precinct 67: Arnettville Community Center, 4120 Fairmont Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 68: Skyview Elementary School, 668 River Road, Westover
- Precinct 71: Skyview Elementary School, 668 River Road, Westover
- Precinct 72: Skyview Elementary School, 668 River Road, Westover
- Precinct 73: Skyview Elementary School, 668 River Road, Westover
- Precinct 74: Granville Social Hall, 172 Town Hall St., Granville
- Precinct 75: Skyview Elementary School, 668 River Road, Westover
- Precinct 77: Cheat Lake Community Church, 527 Tyrone Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 78: Cheat Lake Community Church, 527 Tyrone Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 79: Cheat Lake VFD, 409 Fairchance Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 81: University High School, 131 Bakers Ridge Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 82: Cheat Lake VFD, 409 Fairchance Road Morgantown
- Precinct 83: University High School, 131 Bakers Ridge Road, Morgantown
- Precinct 86: North Elementary School, 825 Chestnut Ridge Road, Morgantown

WHITE HOUSE

Planning for potential presidential transition underway in D.C.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden’s administration formally began planning for a potential presidential transition, aiming to ensure continuity of government no matter the outcome of November’s general election.

Shalanda Young, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, sent memos to all executive departments and agencies, directing them to name a point person for transition planning by May 3. It’s the routine first step in congressionally mandated preparedness for presidential transitions.

Next, White House chief of staff Jeff Zients — who also chaired Biden’s 2020 transition effort — will lead the first meeting of the White House Transition Coordinating Council, which consists of senior

White House policy, national security and management officials, as required by the Presidential Transition Act.

The act provides federal support for major party candidates to prepare to govern so that they can have personnel in place to take policy actions on their first day in office. Making sure presidential candidates are ready to take charge of the federal government became a heightened priority after the Sept. 11 attacks, and the act has been updated several times since to provide additional resources to candidates and to require incumbents to plan for a handoff with even greater intensity.

Young’s letter is nearly identical to the one sent four years ago by Trump administration acting director Russell Vought, for that transition process.

The law requires pres-

idential candidates and the General Services Administration to reach a memorandum of understanding that governs everything from the provision of federal office space to access to sensitive documents by Sept. 1, though often it is reached sooner. Candidates must first formally secure their party’s nomination at their conventions before the memorandum of understanding can be signed.

Transition teams begin vetting candidates for jobs in a future administration, including beginning the time-consuming security clearance process for likely appointees who need to be ready to take their posts on Inauguration Day.

Biden in February launched a separate task force aimed at addressing the “systemic” problem of mishandling classified information during presidential transitions.