

Sierra Club Montgomery County 2020 Endorsements

Montgomery County Board of Education

Sierra Club's number one priority is to address *climate change* – quickly and aggressively. Montgomery County Public Schools is the largest school district in Maryland. The Board of Education controls about half the county budget and makes decisions that directly impact climate change – such as energy efficiency (in hundreds of buildings – schools, offices), transportation (getting more than 150K students to/from school each day), and smart growth (design and location of schools). In addition, the Board of Education makes decisions in several key arenas of great concern to Sierra Club -- such as equity (addressing segregation), curriculum (inclusion of climate change), food (healthy food, composting), water quality, and synthetic turf.

Board of Education At Large – Lynne Harris

Lynne Harris is a dynamic candidate who, if elected, will immediately step in as a strong thought leader on the BOE. She is both personable and high energy.

She has academic credentials in public health, nursing, and law. More important than her academic background, she has had wide-ranging participation over the past 10 years in MCPS – as a teacher, as a parent, in her local PTA, and in the county-wide PTA.

She has also used the past several years to get ready to serve on the BOE – she knows many of the key MCPS players. Importantly, she understands many of the systems and thus many of the challenges she will face on BOE, as well as the opportunities.

Although her number one priority is addressing equity, she is excited and knowledgeable about each of the Sierra Club issues raised in our written questionnaire, and in our interview.

We believe she will accomplish much as a BOE member. Included will be pushing MCPS to move forward substantially on many of Sierra Club's priorities.

Board of Education District 4 – Shebra Evans

Shebra Evans was first elected to the BOE in 2016; she is the incumbent, running for re-election. Her number one priority is equity – moving MCPS to do a better job of serving minority and lower-income students. She is passionate and persuasive in

leading the BOE to more fully and aggressively address the segregation that persists in the school system.

Her demeanor is low key; she is calm, cool, collected. She is personable. It is easy to see why her colleagues have elected her to be president of the BOE.

She has pro-actively reached out to County Council members and the Planning Board; this is important for building greater cooperation and collaboration between MCPS and other key County players.

For Question 1, Constitutional Amendment, State Budget Process

Right now the Maryland General Assembly is the most-constrained state legislature in the country when it comes to influencing a state's budget. The General Assembly has authority to reduce or eliminate items in the Governor's proposed budget but does not have authority to move funds from one item to another. Voting For Question 1 will authorize the General Assembly to reallocate funds from one item to another while keeping the overall budget balanced.



By authority Charles Skinner, Treasurer, Sierra Club MD Chapter PAC