



2026 Board of County Commissioners
Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATE: Sheila Milburn

OFFICE SOUGHT: Commissioner District 1

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PHONE NUMBER(S): [REDACTED]

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: [REDACTED]

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE: In development

I confirm that the responses provided here are my official positions in seeking local office and I understand that EASMC reserves the right to share my responses with members and interested parties.

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: Sheila A. Milburn DATE SUBMITTED: March 13, 2026

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

Education Funding and Local Budgets:

1. Do you commit to prioritizing public education funding in future county budgets? What are your top three budget priorities for the public school system?

a. Yes, I commit to prioritizing Education funding

b. Budget Priorities:

1) School Safety: Increase presence of resource officers and mental health professionals.

2) Teacher Retention: Increase teachers and paraprofessionals to reduce Teacher to student ratio.

3) Facilities Management: Upkeep and repair of our existing school buildings.

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

a. The initial priorities should come through the formal county budgeting process based on the Board of Education Submittal. The next step would be to review current budget set-asides as they relate to current priorities. If needed, and the priorities are in consensus with the overall budgeting plan, move unused earmarked funding as necessary to meet priority shortfalls.

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

a. Meet with the Board of Education to re-prioritize and review each area of shortfall to see where our current funding can support. And ascertain where a shift is needed.

4. In many schools, educators are dealing with high class sizes and caseloads to ensure we can increase staffing to reduce class sizes and caseloads?

a. Retention: Offer bonuses and/ incentives to those long-term employees.

b. Recruitment: Offer internships through the local areas of higher learning for those seeking education degrees. The plan is to increase staff at a lower salary point and reduce teacher student ratios in the classroom.

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

X YES _____ NO

How can you help with the shortfall?

a. Ensure the county budget includes funding in support of the blueprint.

6. Please discuss your philosophy related to charter schools. Do you believe they should be expanded in our county public school structure?

a. I believe charter schools are a vital part of the community. Offer alternative means of teaching/learning to those who cannot excel in larger traditional settings. They help relieve the teacher/student ratio.

7. How will your budget address increased needs for mental health supports for students and educators in our community, where mental health access is so limited?

a. Include funding for increased presence of a dedicated social worker{s} within each school.

b. Include training for teachers and students to recognize signs, implement coping skills, and seek additional help.

8. What is your opinion on local efforts to create and support community schools?

a. I would support the creation of Community Schools for the benefit of those that are often left behind in the natural learning process because of economic or medical restraints.

9. SMCPS is in a period of enrollment decline. Our newest building is 10 years old. What should influence any decisions to redistrict?

a. Health of the Physical Building: In need of major repair

b. Health and well-being of the student population

c. Capacity: Over the Fire code limits; class-size reduction:

Public Funding for Private Schools:

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

SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE

Additional comments:

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

SUPPPORT _____ OPPOSE

Additional comments:

a. Increases a sense of community; prevents from having multiple events

Collective Bargaining:

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

SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE

Additional comments:

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

a. I believe it is a collaborative relationship and each entity is a vital part of the complete process.

b. My role is to participate in the process so that I better understand the reasons for the funding requests.

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

YES _____ NO

Additional comments:

a. I would support regularly scheduled meetings so that we are in sync with planning and forecasting for the future. I prefer to be pro-active instead of reactive.

Racial and Social Justice:

15. EASMC supports honesty in education. To encourage critical thinking within our classrooms, we believe educators should have professional autonomy on how to implement curriculum to meet the needs of our students. Do you support or oppose this position? How would you respond to political pressure threatening that professional autonomy?

SUPPORT OPPOSE

Additional comments:

- a. The curriculum should meet student needs beyond state issued tests.
- b. Flexibility by the educator is fundamental in ensuring the students are engaged and learning.
- c. Politics has no place in the classroom. Nor shall it override pre-set educational standards,

16. Do you support or oppose a curriculum that reflects the perspective and background of diverse learners? How would you respond to political pressure requesting changes to content and curriculum?

SUPPORT OPPOSE

Additional comments:

The curriculum should remain standard but I support the sharing of factual events that will enhance the learning process.

17. What specific policy goals and objectives will you pursue aimed at addressing racial and social justice, including support of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students and providing equitable access, opportunities, resources, and supports?

18. Immigration enforcement is a matter of federal jurisdiction. What is your position on how local law enforcement should interact with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement? And how will you work to ensure school grounds, bus stops, and other school spaces are safe havens against immigration enforcement actions?

a. County law enforcement should maintain an amicable relationship with Immigration officials. to ensure they understand that the school grounds, bus stops, and other school spaces are off limits.

b. I would support additional training for resource officers, social workers and teachers on maintaining a healthy border around our school properties.

19. Stable, safe, and affordable housing is necessary for all students to be able to succeed in school and in the recruitment of educators, including education support professionals, to live in the communities they serve. How do you plan to address the housing crisis in the county?

Privatization and Support for Education Support Professionals (ESP's):

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

_____ SUPPORT OPPOSE

Additional comments:

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

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

Do you support the ESP Bill of Rights?

SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE

Additional Comments:

22. Please share how you would use your office to help make the ESP Bill of Rights a reality in the county.

a. Support budget negotiations that included:

- 1) The development of career advancement paths with increase pay in stages.
- 2) Include the ESP community in benefit package accessibility.
- 3) Provide training options to include certificate programs for learning an advancement.

Essay Questions:

A. Why are you running for this position? What personal attributes, characteristics, and experiences make you the right candidate for this position?

1. I am running for the position of Commissioner for District 1, because I have vested interest in the future of the county. As a Commissioner, I would work to preserve the rural legacy and beauty of the county; ensure we remain at the forefront of managed growth, champion community safety and security; while supporting technological advancements.
2. Personal attributes:
 - a. The last 10 years of my government position was spent in the acquisition profession. More specifically as an Integrate Product Team Lead, I lead a team of Engineers, Logisticians, budget and costs analysts, technicians, test engineers and contract professionals. We moved several products from inception to the actual Navy supply chain. I used my resource management skills to estimate, budget and then execute the plan to fruition.
 - b. As a licensed MD Realtor, I am responsible for performing a client needs assessments. Once that is accomplished, my duties include contract offer development, price/repair negotiations. This includes communication with clients, service personal, and realtor counter parts in the real estate purchasing/selling process.
 - c. Public Speaking: Certified Lay Servant within the United Methodist Church, Master Gardener trainer/facilitator.
3. The combination of these attributes will allow me to bring the many departments within our county government to the table where we can work collaboratively on the many tasks and challenges facing our community. The challenges include managed growth, outdated zoning ordinances and fiscal accountability.

B. What are the top three things you would like to accomplish in the next four years if you are elected to [county commission/BOE]?

- a. School Safety: Increase presence of resource officers and mental health professionals.
- b. Combat homelessness: Work to create options for those in the mid to low level income ranges. Engaging with Planning and Zoning.
- c. Traffic Congestion/Public Transportation: Research ways to ease congestion and provide more transit opportunities

Additional Information:

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

*The bio is attached

**I do not currently have list of endorsements.