

The African American Coalition of Howard County
In consultation with
African Americans in Howard County
2020 General Election Endorsements

The African American Coalition of Howard County (The Coalition), in consultation with the African Americans in Howard County (AAIHC), is announcing their endorsements for the 2020 Maryland General Election. AAIHC endorses political candidates for leadership positions and is a sister organization of the African American Coalition of Howard County.

We begin with the candidates for U.S. President & Vice President, and **AAIHC proudly supports the Joe Biden and Kamala Harris team**. We agree with the [Washington Post](#)¹ in saying:

Fortunately, to oust President Trump in 2020, voters do not have to lower their standards. The Democratic nominee, former vice president Joe Biden, is exceptionally well-qualified, by character and experience, to meet the daunting challenges that the nation will face over the coming four years.

We remind you that democracy brought Blacks through the Civil Rights Movement, and it is President Trump that trying his best to destroy that “democracy.”

We, of course, have a strong belief in the capability and qualifications of Kamala Harris as Biden’s running mate, with one exception. Harris has a complicated record with the prosecution of black males when she served as California attorney general and district attorney of San Francisco. “During her tenure, Black people made up less than 8% of the city’s population but accounted for over 40% of its police arrests.”² And her office prosecuted Black males at a higher rate than her predecessor. AAIHC concurs that offenders, irrespective of color, should be brought before justice. But individuals in leadership roles similar to Senator Harris should return to the Black community and establish programs that teach meaningful ways of growing up in a peaceful community while providing economic opportunities for a different path. [And Biden did just that throughout his political career.](#)

Biden’s leadership has been recognized by politicians from both sides of the aisle. In giving their endorsement of the Biden-Harris team, the Baltimore Sun highlighted the broad support Biden has “from national security experts and many people from the opposite political party, including former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge; Sen. John McCain’s widow, Cindy McCain; former Ohio Gov. John Kasich; and even Donald Trump’s one-time communications director, Anthony Scaramucci.”³

The country desperately needs a leader who can represent all people, who work for all people, and who partners with all people. We need an uniter and not a divider! Biden has vowed to “restore the soul of America”, and we need that more now than ever. The editorial board of the New York Times, in their support of Biden, addressed this issue.

A President Biden would embrace the rule of law and restore public confidence in democratic institutions. He would return respect for science and expertise to the government. He would stock his administration with competent, qualified, principled individuals. He would stand with

¹ Editorial Board, “Joe Biden for President”, Washington Post, September 28, 2020, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/09/28/editorial-board-endorsement-joe-biden/?arc404=true&itid=lk_inline_manual_3

² Mike Muse, “Why Black Men Don’t Like Kamala Harris – And How It Can Stop”, Level, August 18, 2020, <https://level.medium.com/why-black-men-dont-like-kamala-harris-and-how-it-can-stop-4d0b34a5415c>

³ Editorial Board, “All of The Baltimore Sun’s general election endorsements in one place”, The Baltimore Sun, October 2, 2020, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-1005-sun-endorsements-20201002-koyxluqw65fvxbypu2alrvqgehe-story.html>

*America's allies and against adversaries that seek to undermine our democracy. He would work to address systemic injustices. He would not court foreign autocrats or give comfort to white supremacists. His focus would be on healing divisions and rallying the nation around shared values. He would understand that his first duty, always, is to the American people.*⁴

Credible newspapers, global political leaders, and grassroots advocates have given their support, and now it is time for us to do the same.

Other Key Political Races

It's extremely important to support **Congressman Kweisi Mfume** as Howard County Congressional Representative for the 7th District. As the Past President of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP) and former congressional leader for the 7th district, Mfume is the best for Howard County, Maryland, and the nation. He's the one man that can sit across the table from our adversaries and help them understand the importance of equality and justice as they negotiate and discuss foreign policy issues.

With **Congressman John Sarbanes**, Howard County can always count on him for good and effective leadership. Most recently, he worked with other lawmakers to address the concerns and issues with the U.S. Postal Service new cost-reduction policies that negatively impacted the everyday lives of all Americans. He doesn't shy away from big issues, and proudly represents Maryland. He's politically progressive and often visits Howard County to engage with us in-person.

Congressman C. A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for writing the laws that fund the federal government. He works to defeat divisive ideological policies and works to prevent another government shutdown. With this important position, we are lucky that Ruppertsberger represents us.

In the Howard County Judicial Circuit Court race, AAIHC endorses **Attorney Quincy L. Coleman**. His opponent, John Kuchno seems to hold little faith in the ability of local Black attorneys. During the [Coalition's 2020 General Election Political Forum](#), Kuchno attempted to minimize Coleman in suggesting that he "only dealt with traffic tickets cases". With over 20 years of litigation experience in various jurisdictions throughout Maryland and Washington, DC, Coleman has more than enough experience to serve as the next judge on the Judicial Circuit Court.

As to the Judge, Court of Special Appeals (At Large), AAIHC endorses **E. Gregory Wells**, and for Judge of Special Appeals (Circuit Court 3), we endorse Judge **Kathryn Grill Graeff**.

For the Howard County School Board, AAIHC's endorses:

Councilmanic District 1, **Matthews D. Molyett**

Councilmanic District 2, **Antonia Barkley Watts**

Councilmanic District 3, **Jolene Mosely**

Councilmanic District 4, **Jen Mallo**

Councilmanic District 5, **No Endorsement**

AAIHC's rationale for our endorsements of the school board candidates includes support of [proper desegregation to ensure closing of the achievement gaps](#); incorporating full-scale equity in the Howard

⁴ Editorial Board, "Elect Joe Biden, America", The New Times, October 6, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/06/opinion/joe-biden-2020-nytimes-endorsement.html?action=click&auth=login-email&login=email&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

County Public School System; and, of course, a core group on the Board that the community can confidently work with in good faith.

Ballot Questions	Position
<p>Ballot Question 1 <i>Constitutional Amendment State Budget Process</i></p> <p><i>The proposed constitutional amendment gives state lawmakers additional authority to reallocate spending within the state budget. The General Assembly now has direct authority to reduce spending but not necessarily to shift resources to their preferred purpose. This would put the budgetary balance of power in line with the practice in 49 other states and adds this additional protection: it would grant the sitting governor the power of a line-item veto if he or she disagreed with a legislative spending priority. Legislators would then have an opportunity to override that veto with a three-fifths majority at a later date. The new arrangement would not go into effect until Fiscal 2024 so it would have no impact on the current governor.</i></p>	Vote "FOR"
<p>Ballot Question 2 <i>Commercial Gaming Expansion (for means Education funds)</i></p>	Vote "FOR"
<p>Ballot Question A <i>Would amend the county charter to alter the dates for redistricting of Howard County Council seats to reflect a shift in the timing of the Maryland primary election from September to June. (Baltimore Sun)</i></p>	Vote "FOR"
<p>Ballot Question B <i>Question B shortens the term that citizens would serve on various county advisory boards from five years to three years. (Baltimore Sun)</i></p>	Vote "FOR"
<p>Ballot Question C <i>Charter Amendment County Employment Discrimination</i></p> <p><i>Would clarify and extend the restrictions on employment discrimination to ban it on the basis of disability, color, national origin, immigration status, age, occupation, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, family status, or personal appearance. It maintains the county's ban on hiring decisions on the basis of an applicant's political affiliation, political opinions or associations, or race. (Baltimore Sun)</i></p>	Vote "FOR"

The African American Coalition of Howard County

In consultation with

African Americans in Howard County

2020 MARYLAND GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS' CARD

POLITICAL OFFICE	ENDORSED CANDIDATES
President and Vice President of the United States	<i>Democratic</i> Joe Biden, President Kamala Harris, Vice President
Representative in Congress – Congressional District 02	<i>Democratic</i> – Kweisi Mfume
Representative in Congress – Congressional District 03	<i>Democratic</i> – John Sarbanes
Representative in Congress – Congressional District 07	<i>Democratic</i> – C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Judge of the Circuit Court -- Howard County	Quincy L. Coleman
Judge, Court of Special Appeals – At Large	E. Gregory Wells
Judge, Court of Special Appeals – Circuit 03	Kathryn Grill Graeff
Howard County School Board – Councilmanic District 001	Matthew D. Molyett
Howard County School Board – Councilmanic District 002	Antonia Barkley Watts
Howard County School Board – Councilmanic District 003	Jolene Mosley
Howard County School Board – Councilmanic District 004	Jen Mallo
Howard County School Board – Councilmanic District 005	No Endorsement
Ballot Question 1 <i>Constitutional Amendment State Budget Process</i>	Vote “FOR”
Ballot Question 2 <i>Commercial Gaming Expansion</i>	Vote “FOR”
Ballot Question A <i>Charter Amendment Redistricting Dates</i>	Vote “FOR”
Ballot Question B <i>Charter Amendment Citizen Board Term</i>	Vote “FOR”
Ballot Question C <i>Charter Amendment County Employment Discrimination</i>	Vote “FOR”