

## 2022 Voter Guide: Carroll BOE - The Baltimore Sun

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The Baltimore Sun is preparing its online voter guide for the 2022 election. Please answer the following background and policy questions below.

Responses will be published in the guide as-is, and will also be used as part of The Sun's endorsement process. We will not make endorsements in every race, but all answers will be posted online prior to the general election. Any questions, please let us know: [elections@baltsun.com](mailto:elections@baltsun.com).

Answers should be limited to 150 words or fewer. Pasting in your responses from a separate text editor prior to the deadline is encouraged. You will not be able to save your progress here. All questions are required.

Deadline: Friday, April 29 by 5 p.m.

**1) Name\*** Tara Battaglia

**2) Email address\*** tarab4boe@gmail.com

**3) Date of birth – *This will only be used to show your age at the time of the election. Your DOB will not be published.\****

**4) Residence – *Please indicate your neighborhood, town/city, and/or county of residence.\****

Carroll

**5) Current occupation\*** Work part time out of the home, and current member of the Carroll County Board of Education

**6) Education\*** Currently enrolled at UMGC/ 2012-2014 Carroll Community College/

Class of 1996 Westminster High School

**7) Previous political experience\*** Current member of Carroll County Board of Education

**8) Why are you running for office?\*** To keep our schools a safe learning environment for all our students, teachers, staff and communities. Continue and strengthen partnerships with parents, families, guardians and local businesses. To continue and expand drug education for our students, families and communities, especially regarding opioids. To expand learning experiences for our children with consistency in their education, prepare them for career paths, and expand virtual programs for an equal learning experience in all high schools.

**9) What do you see as the most pressing issue the county school system faces and how would you address it?\*** The budget is always a big issue. The BOE needs to continue to advocate to receive at least 50% of the Commissioners budget, so our students can receive the resources needed, our teachers can be compensated more, and our communities can continue to thrive. I have advocated to receive 50% of the budget, and I will continue to do so.

**10) How should county schools assist students in recovering from the learning loss?\*** The current BOE is continuing to address learning loss. The current BOE started addressing learning loss before MSDE made recommendations. There are plans to continue addressing learning loss this summer, and going forward to the next school year. The current learning loss program is very successful for helping our students to make up the educational loss. Our teachers do a phenomenal job in letting administration know which child could benefit from the program. Parents can also reach out to their child's teacher about getting additional assistance for their child.

**11) Should the county school board consider adjusting school boundaries further? What criteria should be considered?\*** There is a redistricting committee already meeting to address overcrowding in schools, particularly in the Southern area of Carroll County. There needs to be more discussions with the Commissioners so the Commissioners understand that there are areas of the County that have capacity concerns. These areas need to be kept in mind before permitting new mass housing development. Communities that were affected by the past school closures should not be affected twice. The BOE evaluates the capacity of every school every year, and should continue those discussions for any future policies that may need to be developed to address capital needs and operational concerns.

**12) What efforts do the county schools need to make to address systemic racism in education and society?\*** Societal and racism issues are not just a Carroll County issue. These are issues that are throughout the Nation. We need to continue to teach our children to be kind, respectful and that it's ok to be different. This also begins at home. It can not be just the school system's responsibility, but is the responsibility as a community. While these are important issues, we do need to concentrate more on reading, math, and writing, accepting others for who they are, kindness, and most importantly just respecting each other's differences.

**13) What, if any, changes would you propose to the school system's discipline policies?\***

Policies are in line with what the State and Federal Government has required. CCPS does the best as possible to identify students that could potentially have behavioral issues, and do attempt to address the needs of a student to prevent the need of disciplinary action within the law. CCPS does have preventive policies such as bullying and addressing discrimination that could lead to potential disciplinary actions. Those policies are also in line with State and Federal laws.

14) Please upload a headshot.

