



TAAAC Voter Guide

Check inside for
TAAAC updates
including an
overview of this
year's member
wins!

JAMES KITCHIN FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Who will commit to ensuring Anne Arundel County students and educators have the funding and resources they need? Who is the best county executive candidate to continue to move our public schools from good to great? TAAAC members have done the research, sent out questionnaires, and conducted interviews with the candidates. The clear choice for county executive is James Kitchin. Here's why:



James Kitchin was a teacher himself. His wife, Lauren, is currently a teacher at Crofton Woods Elementary School here in AACPS. From his own experience and from years of hearing his wife's stories from the classroom, he is the only candidate who understands the stress, pressure, and workload that educators face.

"Our educators and support staff understand the realities inside our classrooms better than anyone else. The best solutions come from those doing the work every day, those supporting all learners and helping them succeed. As County Executive, I will always approach education policy with respect for the professionals in our classrooms and a commitment to strengthening our public schools for students, families, and educators alike."

~ James Kitchin

James is the first candidate in Anne Arundel County to participate in the new public campaign finance system.

This means he takes no donations larger than \$250 and he does not accept donations from PACs of any kind. Meanwhile his opponents can and have accepted donations from the development community and PACs which can give up to \$6000. By doing this, he is only accountable to the people--not special interests.



James is the only candidate who has experience serving in the county executive's office, so he will be able to step into this role on day one. He has worked alongside our current county executive, Steuart Pittman, for the past seven and a half years, resolving countless constituent issues, leading projects, and now serving as special assistant. One example stands out: he successfully coordinated the county's distribution of COVID-19 vaccines with no blueprint to follow. He has earned the endorsements of both County Executive Pittman and Councilmember Lisa Rodvien.

Voting in the 2026 primary election has started with mail-in voting! Early vote will occur between June 11th and 18th from 7 am to 8 pm each day with voters able to cast their ballots at any of the 10 polling locations throughout the county. Election Day itself is on Tuesday, June 23 (and is the last day to deliver your absentee ballot to a drop box). Find your polling place at bit.ly/mdvoterlookup



EST 1920
TAAAC
June 2026

Action Report

Kristina Korona, President
Jorge Córdoba, Vice President
Will Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer

Let's Celebrate Member Wins!

Our union has much to celebrate this year! More members at more schools participated in more events than in recent memory. Throughout the last year, members participated in various "structure tests", actions of escalating sizes that reveal the strength of each worksite. In total, members at 97% of worksites participated in either a TAAAC Tuesday t-shirt day, the inaugural Job Satisfaction Survey, or hosted a May Day walkout this year. Below are actions that led to members win this school year:



- As a result of organizing by English Language Development teachers, including member leader Dana Hurwitz, who felt their students were being overtested, AACPS substantially scaled back LAS links testing.
- Members in the Birth-Five Program had two major wins this school year. First, returning to the past practice, the first two code blue days of the school year will not count against personal leave. Members also took collective action to meet with their supervisors around reassigning SPED staff to teach at PPRC. This change was halted. Congratulations to all member leaders, including Amy Russ!
- Members participated in six lobby nights to help pass pro-public education legislation, including a multi-year fight to allow an ESP member on the State Board of Education, implement cellphone limitations in schools, and an interstate compact for school psychologists. Additionally, member Josie Wiswall reached out to her state senator about the fact that Pre-K teachers were not able to get a tax deduction for purchasing school supplies like K-12 teachers can. As a result, Senator Simonaire drafted a bill to fix this issue, and members lobbied to make sure it passed! After years of member advocacy, the AIB updated their guidance as to when teachers qualify for the NBCT low performing school salary enhancement which means more educators will get the \$7k and new state guidance has been clear that NBCT school counselors qualify for NBCT salary enhancements just list NBCT teachers do!
- Members stood with We are CASA to protect immigrants by lobbying to pass bans on 287(g) agreements and immigration officers wearing masks, the Community Trust Act, and the Data Privacy Act.
- TAAAC partnered with Baltimore Teachers Union and joined a statewide coalition to lobby for educators and librarians to gain the right to strike. Members helped pack the hearing room and new member Sara Gillen testified in support.
- After members lobbied last year for flexible school scheduling, members this year have benefited from more work time at the end of marking periods with the switch from two early dismissals to a full work day.
- In our continued fight against AACPS's heavy-handed discipline, UniServ Directors filed several appeals to cases, where 5 out of the 6 this school year were decided/settled, resulting in disciplinary action being significantly reduced or overturned!
- Davidsonville Elementary staff took action to complete a climate survey and pushed back on contract violations with the support of their Building Rep Ellen Norris.



**TAAAC Board
of Directors**

Charis Cephas • Maria Côté • Dyana Cronin • Maryalice Davis
Chris Lerch • Melissa McHarg • Elizabeth Ruddy
Joy Reider Simpson • Keanuu Smith-Brown • Karina Zotti

**Wins
cont. on
next pg!**



TAAAC Member Resources

APPLE BALLOT WITH TAAAC

Let's help voters learn about educator-endorsed candidates in Anne Arundel County, especially County Executive candidate James Kitchin! Sign up for to pass out "Apple Ballots" at polling locations so voters know which candidates educators endorse. Additionally, we're door knocking every Sat and phone banking on week nights. Visit taaaconline.org/for-members/politicalaction for more information!



CONTENTIA: UniServ Update

When temperatures and humidity are high in your building, it makes working difficult for staff and learning difficult for students. Scan the QR code for more info about Maryland law, your contractual rights and actions you can take.



ANNAPOLIS JUNETEENTH

March with TAAAC in the annual Annapolis Juneteenth parade! Scan for details:

- Parade: Saturday, June 20 from 11am-1pm, St. John's College to Amos Garrett Blvd.
- RSVP by scanning the QR Code



SICK LEAVE BANK

Did you know that if you donate one sick day, you can receive up to 100 days per year in the case of an emergency? Open enrollment is between July 1 and Sept 30, or during the first 30 days of a new educator's employment. Current enrollees have until June 30 to cancel in writing for the following school year or risk the irretrievable loss of their contribution. Note that retired-rehired educators are not eligible. Learn more at: bit.ly/3nEfApM

MEMBER WINS CONTINUED!



- At two of schools, through a variety of tactics including climate surveys, a majority petition, PTA engagement, and advocating to the area director, members were able to raise significant concerns about building leadership that resulted in positive change. Shoutout to member leaders Amy Young-Buckler and Sharon Misek!
- At the bargaining table, AACPS's team continues to violate labor law which led TAAAC to file two Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs). One led to a mutual agreement to resolve the issue, allowing us to withdraw it, and the other lead to an arbitration that we won, requiring AACPS to bargain on the current reopener proposals we have on the table.
- While our budget fight is not over, through member testimony and lobbying, County Executive Pittman stretched to make the largest percentage increase in education funding in two decades! He explicitly stated that it was due to member advocacy that he included funding for additional special education teachers and he made sure educator COLAs match what county employees will receive. We know that this is still not what educators and our students deserve so our budget fight continues until June 10 when Pittman releases his supplemental budget!



Reminder: Elections for building reps and Faculty Council members should be conducted by each school in June. Speak with your current reps to determine the process and dates.





TAAAC Voter Guide

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR TAAAC MEMBERS AND IS PAID FOR BY TAAAC.

ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COUNCIL



Geonta Simmons, District 1

As a member of the Democratic Central Committee and Judiciary Clerk for the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Geonta values public education, listens to educators, and supports workers' rights.



Natalie Ogilvie, District 5

Small business owner, Secretary of the AA-SECAC, and AACPS parent Natalie is ready to fight for the right to strike legislation, increased investments in education, and affordable housing.



Will Shorter, District 2

Will understands the needs of educators from his experience a representative on the Anne Arundel County Public Library Board of Trustees where he ran a kindergarten readiness program and facilitated community engagement.



Gavin Buckley, District 6

As the former mayor of Annapolis, Gavin's community relationships, track record and business connections made him stand out in a crowded field. He is also using public campaign financing.



Rebecca Baucom, District 3

A current TAAAC member and long-time special educator, Rebecca clearly has educators' priorities at heart. She will be a strong advocate for AACPS employees, public education, and working families.



Spencer Jones, District 7

Owning and operating Chick & Ruth's Dely and multiple Five Guys locations, Spencer is strongly aligned on educators' priority issues and wants to bring a new, young perspective to Crofton and South County.



Julie Hummer, District 4

Julie has been an advocate for children, educators and families throughout her terms as councilmember, Board of Education member, PTA president, AACPS parent, and special education teacher.



Don't live in Anne Arundel County or want to learn about state-wide offices? Visit mdappleballot.com to learn about more educator-endorsed candidates!

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

Elections are our chance to send a message that we're not going back to slashed budgets and harmful policies that leave too many students behind. Learn more about educator-endorsed candidates at mdappleballot.com and make sure you are ready with our guide:

- Check your General Assembly District
- Request your mail-in ballot by June 16
- Preview your ballot
- Find your polling place or drop box
- Plan transportation
- Help spread the word!