TAAAC EST 1920
October 2026

# Action Report

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

# VOTE FOR EDUCATOR-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

It's time that educators have a larger role in shaping the budgets and laws that impact our public schools! Every day, we show our commitment to our community by working to provide the high-quality education and services that our students deserve to reach their full potential. Imagine our impact if more of us were in elected office, leveraging our experience and insights to improve public education, support working families, and help our entire community at a larger scale. That's what inspired our colleague and fellow TAAAC member Rebecca Baucom to run for office!

Following her experience as a building rep, member organizer, and NEA & MSEA delegate, Rebecca chose to run for county council in district 3. As a special education teacher and long-time union member, Rebecca knows what it means to show up for her community, solve problems, and to work.

As with every endorsed candidate, Rebecca participated in our multi-step endorsement process—open to every candidate who runs for office regardless of political party. Our Government Relations (GR) committee works to identify the best local pro-public education candidates. Each candidate who chooses to participate must complete a written questionnaire and an in-person interview. Then the GR committee deliberates to decide whether or not to endorse at all and whom to recommend to our Board of Directors. The TAAAC Board then votes on the committee's recommendations. Those that get the Board's recommendation are sent to our Representative Assembly (RA).






The RA is TAAAC's highest governing body, comprised of all the building reps from across the district. The RA makes the final vote on whether or not a particular candidate will get our union's endorsement. Throughout this process, there is a great deal of consideration to ensure we support the best candidates for public education. For state and national endorsements, there are similar processes.

So much time and care is taken to ensure we get our endorsements right because we know elections matter! Elected officials determine how much funding we get for salaries and increased staffing, and they pass laws that impact our working conditions. This is why it is critical that we help get our endorsed candidates--up and down the ballot--across the finish line in November. Check out mdappleballot.com to find out who are the endorsed candidates wherever you live in Maryland. Spread the word to your neighbors and family members as well. You can also sign up to volunteer to pass out Apple Ballots on election day and be part of our GO Team that is helping to get out the vote: use the QR code on the back of this newsletter to sign up.

*Member communication paid by TAAAC.*

## YOUR 2026 LOCAL APPLE BALLOT

**Allison Pickard for County Executive** leads the top of the ticket for a slate of pro-public education candidates in Anne Arundel County. Find your district at vote.org/ballot-information

- Kelly Smith, District 1
- Catelyn Middlebrooks, District 2
- Rebecca Baucom, District 3
- Julie Hummer, District 4
- Natalie Ogilvie, District 5
- Gavin Buckley, District 6
- Spencer Jones, District 7
- Sidney Butcher and Ginina Jackson-Stevenson, Circuit Court Judges
- Support for Ballot Question A

For all of the educator-endorsed candidates up & down the ballot across MD, visit mdappleballot.com

## TAAAC Board of Directors

Charis Cephas • Maryalice Davis • Deanna Edmunds
Chris Lerch • Kristen Luketich • Melissa McHarg • Elizabeth Ruddy
Jennifer Sell • Joy Reider Simpson • Keanuú Smith-Brown • Samira Tañedo

# TAAAC Member Resources

## ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

Join your TAAAC UniServ Directors for a training on building advocacy and representation on Thursday, October 22 at 5:00 pm. Representing and advocating for your colleagues is perhaps the most important aspect of being an effective building rep. This session will cover: legal status of building reps, "Weingarten" rights and the various tools in the building rep's toolbox to deal with discipline, bullying and harassment as well as representation. Location TBD in the Annapolis area. Open to all members. RSVP at: taaaconline.org/building-rep-trainings

## HELP GET OUT THE VOTE

TAAAC is working with Chesapeake Indivisible for the next NO KINGS event to remind everyone to VOTE! The sign-waving gathering will be held Sat, Oct 17, 11 am to 1:30 pm on the sidewalks near Generals Hwy and Bestgate Rd in Annapolis. Also join us for an art build on Oct. 11 or 12 at the TAAAC Office from 3 to 5 pm each day to make signs of the early voting dates, general election date, and the importance of casting your vote early. Sign up at mobilize.us/nokings/event/1035743/

## MSEA CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

As part of MSEA's annual convention, there are free workshops open to MSEA members only. Explore the schedule at marylandeducators.org/programs/conventionworkshops. Key details:

- Dates: Fri, Oct 16 & Sat, Oct 17
- Location: Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland
- Sub Code: 27469 (for all TAAAC members!)
- Proof of attendance: you'll get a certificate for attending PD sessions
- License renewal: you can earn up to 5 professional development points towards license renewal!

## CONTENTIA: UniServ Update

Classroom management is an essential duty and skill throughout the profession. However, there are times when students fail to meet the expectations of the classroom, and educators are required to implement disciplinary actions, including but not limited to referring the student to the principal, or writing a major referral.

Major referral forms should be made available to all staff in an accessible area of the building. In the case you are unable to find a form, send an email to your administrators with the related information, and request the proper form be provided if needed. Article 10.B of the TAAAC Negotiated Agreement in part states that "a student who refuses to obey a reasonable request of a teacher may be excluded from class and shall be retained in the office for the remainder of the instructional period."

While COMAR (13A.08.04.04D) outlines that students should not be removed from the classroom for longer than 30 minutes without receiving instruction, you should engage your FAC to discuss what alternate locations exist, such as Learning Labs and the DMR, to provide students removed from the classroom with access to instruction.

Additionally, COMAR 13A.08.01.11.C.(8) states, "If a student's disruptive behavior results in action less than suspension, the principal shall confer with the teacher who referred the student to the principal before returning the student to that teacher's classroom."

## HELP ELECT PRO-PUBLIC EDUCATION CANDIDATES!

Want to help get our endorsed candidates elected? Scan here to join the GO Team for door knocking, phone banking, Apple Balloting, and other efforts, or visit: bit.ly/3TrrIKS

Welcome to the 91 new members who joined TAAAC last month! If you know a Unit 1 employee who has not yet signed up, ask them to join now: https://www.mynea360.org/s/join-now