



# EDUCATION VOTES

## SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

≡ SECTIONS Q SEARCH

Capital Gazette

### School board pick

I am a teacher at Chesapeake Bay Middle School and I am certain the best choice for the Board of Education in District 3 is Ken Baughman. In my experience as a teacher, I have seen the effects of increased poverty and trauma in our schools.

Baughman, a retired teacher, has been deeply invested in public schools and knows the issues. He devoted his life to teaching in classrooms across the county, fighting for the needs of our children, and lobbying for the needs of educators. Not only does he bring his past experience to the position, but he has current graduates and grandkids in the system. He understands the current needs that exist from decades of underfunding schools.

He will fight to expand pre-k and vocational programs, improve support for struggling learners and mental health services. As an educator, he will work to get educators living wages to retain and recruit the best. We need to stop the drain of teachers who leave the profession after just a few years.

Nearly half leave before their third year, and more than half work two jobs to support themselves.

I know that an election may seem a small detail during this coronavirus pandemic, but the reality is that strong schools, led by a supportive Board of Education, are important to recovering from the pandemic and always. Make sure you vote when your ballot comes in the mail. Remember to return it by June 2.

JAMIE SMITH