

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Commissioner Candidates

Kathy Fuller, Commissioner Candidate District 5

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Do you support a reduction to the cap on property tax assessments?

Yes. I support lowering taxes in *all* areas.

If elected will you support the “Constant Yield Tax Rate” for Carroll County?

A Constant Yield tax rate is good for taxpayers as their property values rise—it keeps their taxes lower while bringing in the same tax collections. But, if property values fall, as we saw in the recent recession, property taxes would rise in order to keep the same overall tax collection coming in—that’s when property taxes would be the least affordable for residents. I would support a hybrid that would keep property taxes low in good times but doesn’t raise taxes in bad times. It’s more important to keep money in taxpayer’s pockets than in government coffers. Government needs to learn to reduce spending in bad times. Taxpayers do.

Would you support Code Home Rule?

No. Code Home Rule was created as a stepping stone for progression to Charter Government.

Would you support Charter Government?

No.

- 1. Charter Government** (County Executive Government) **is expensive because it adds** an additional layer of **bureaucracy** on top of what we already have by adding an additional (usually highly paid) County Executive and staff.
- It **consolidates power in the hands of one person, the County Executive**, and requires a majority on the Council to veto any action of the Executive. Commissioner Government equally distributes power among the 5 Commissioners who must get a majority vote in order to act. When government consolidates power taxpayers and residents usually do not benefit.
- “Local control” is usually the euphemism used for Charter Government, but when voters hear that catch phrase they should think: Under **Charter Government officials can raise their own salaries--Commissioners can’t**. Again, Commissioner Government distributes power, which protects citizens and taxpayers. Remember civics classes: Separation of powers and checks and balances are how our government is designed to keep The People in control of the government. The more deliberative government is the more The People have a chance to influence the outcome.
- One **danger** of County Executive government is that the **Executive can take away the power of the elected Sheriff and place that power in the hands of an unelected Police Chief** who is hired by and accountable only to the County Executive. We see that in many counties that have been Charter for a long while. Over time the County Executive can move the authority

from the elected Sheriff to the Chief of Police. That moves who law enforcement is accountable to--away from the voters and toward the County Executive.

5. The argument that Commissioner Government is deficient because the County Executive and Council are more similar to the federal system of the President and Legislature is wrong.

Commissioner Government already has all three branches of government--

Legislative branch of government makes the laws (ordinances): County Commissioners

Executive Branch of government enforces the laws: County Sheriff

Judicial Branch of government evaluates compliance with the laws: County Court System

Would you support the creation of a county-funded professional Fire Department?

Before considering any move to a professional Fire Department we must ask ourselves

3 important questions:

1. Can we lose such an integral part of our communities and still maintain the small town/rural atmosphere we have today?

2. Can we afford the permanent cost of a fully paid, professional force, and do we have any idea of what that actual cost will be today and into the future?

3. Have we done everything possible to save the volunteer fire fighting force we have today?

Right now the answers to those questions appears to be NO.

Our volunteer fire departments are the hubs of our local communities so we need a much larger effort to recruit and retain volunteer fire fighters.

--More effort must go into finding out what County funded benefits will lure volunteers.

--The County must create benefits for local businesses that support their employees volunteering as fire fighters.

--County government is a large employer within the county—how do we encourage these employees to volunteer?

--More outreach needs to be done to entice high school and college students to volunteer and provide them with benefits they find of value.

I understand that last year county funds were allocated to providing those types of benefits that would spur more volunteers, but none of the money was used. That is not acceptable.

Would you support protecting farmers/landowners rights to be able to sell their property?

Of course!

How do you plan on working with the BOE to do what is best for students and tax payers?

The best way to protect tax payers and students is to deal in facts when approaching all issues; effective decisions and problem solving cannot be done without a solid foundation in fact. So, I would insist on clear, accurate and complete data be exchanged between the BoE, its employees, its constituent student families and the County at all times.

How would you rate Governor Hogan's performance?

To me, performance of an elected official who isn't an incumbent in this race has no relevance. In an election year evaluating the performance of any elected official is a personal question for each individual to answer in the privacy of the voting booth. I encourage everyone to vote!

How do you plan on working with the delegation to do what is best for Carroll County?

I plan on working with the delegation as the Board of Commissioners and delegation have always done. If the Commissioners have a particular need that they do not have the authority to accomplish they ask the delegation to drop a bill that would authorize the Commissioners to meet that need. The delegation has always been very responsive to the needs of the Commissioners as it will continue to be, which is another reason to continue to support Commissioner Government.

Is it fair to assume prior donations to individuals and campaigns reflect your character and values?

I will not speak for how or why others donate, but as for myself and my numerous donations over the years, both charitable and political, do *absolutely* reflect my character and my values. I donate to patriotic, good government, constitutional, veteran and Christian causes and to people running for office whom I believe will uphold and support those values.

Governor Hogan and President Trump are both Republicans. However, they have two very different approaches when it comes to governing. As a Republican, do you think that it is possible to be a supporter of both Governor Hogan and President Trump?

I think that the facts prove it is possible, and in fact was exactly what happened. President Trump was elected by *many* of the same people who elected Governor Hogan.

Have you ever been a named party in a lawsuit against the Maryland Republican party or one of the state's Republican central committees?

Serving on the Carroll County Republican Central Committee I was one of three committee members who petitioned the court to prohibit actions of the Carroll County Republican Central Committee which we believe violated our duties as proscribed in the Maryland Constitution and violated a process we had unanimously agreed to follow. To read more about this case and see the documents involved, visit my website <https://www.kathyfuller.org/constitutionalquestion>

Are you able to work with Republicans who have varying conservative ideologies?

Yes! Over the past many years I have worked with a variety of Republicans and a variety of shades of conservative ideology. During my 8 years on the Carroll County Republican Central Committee, in my two terms as President of the Carroll County Republican Women's Club, and my many years of active Republican involvement across the state I have worked with liberal Republicans, Constitutional Conservatives, Libertarians and everyone between.

What is your favorite thing about living in Carroll County?

It's too hard to name one thing because there are so many things but I can sum it up in a phrase *the nature of Carroll*—the rural nature of the county while being so close to other states and DC; the significant nature of Carroll's history and the preservation of that history; the active nature of its residents in the public life of the county; the home town nature of so many of our events in the county; and the county's natural beauty.

In three words, describe Carroll County Values.

Honest, fair and responsible.

When and why did you become a Republican?

When I first registered to vote as a teen I registered as a Republican. I have always been a Republican because of my outlook on life.

I am a Republican because:

I believe strongly in right and wrong and that those standards for our behavior are set by God;

I believe in small government and personal responsibility;

I believe in caring for family and neighbors ourselves, not expecting the government to do it;

I believe in recognizing our rights and the responsibilities that come with those rights;

I believe in respecting the rights of those around us as a means to living peacefully with our neighbors;

I believe in living with truth and facts and honesty at all times and in all things.

Are you pro-Life?

Absolutely.

Are you supportive of the Second Amendment?

Absolutely.