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## 2018 SMAR Candidate Profile and Questionnaire

On behalf of the Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS® (SMAR), we applaud your willingness to serve in public office. The candidate questionnaire is an important step in the SMAR candidate support process and **must** be completed to be considered for endorsement. It is encouraged to attach a current resume or other campaign material when returning a **completed and signed** questionnaire. When possible, the committee requests that you forward all completed documents via e-mail to [theresak@somdrealtors.com](mailto:theresak@somdrealtors.com) or to the SMAR headquarters, Attn: Theresa Kuhns, Government Affairs Director. It must be returned no later than March 10, 2018.

The Southern Maryland Association of Realtors is a membership directed trade association with over 1,700 professionals, brokerages and affiliated industry business entities representing the Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's regions. We are the voice for property owners in the greater Southern Maryland region whether advocating in front of local governments, engaging with the state delegation on legislation or participating actively in the election process; our staff and membership are active, professional and serve with integrity. Homeownership is not a special interest- it is in the common interest.

SMAR is nonpartisan in its selection of candidates and strongly considers variables such as positions and/or past voting records on a number of real estate related issues combined with overall electability. Financial support is *not* an endorsement.

Candidate questionnaires **must** be signed by the candidate to be considered valid. A follow up interview with SMAR leadership will take place after the 2018 filing deadline for those candidates who complete, sign and return this form. A candidate must complete an in person interview to be considered for endorsement. Our staff will coordinate with you directly to schedule this time, please provide the best contact information for communication purposes.



**"The Voice for Real Estate in Southern Maryland"**

Member – National Association of REALTORS® and Maryland Association of REALTORS®

The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict Code of Ethics.



**Section I. Candidate Profile**

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Electoral County and District: \_\_\_\_\_

Challenger       Incumbent       Open Seat

Direct Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager, Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Are you familiar with SMAR and its mission?

Yes    No

Are you currently a real estate licensee in Maryland or have been previously?  Yes    No

Current Position/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous public offices or appointments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section II. Financial**

How much money have you budgeted for your campaign? \_\_\_\_\_

How much have you raised to date? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you accept PAC funds? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Section III. Basis for Candidacy**

What is the top reason you decided to run for this position?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any endorsements received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section IV. County Legislative Concerns

### The State of Your County

Using a scale of 1 to 10, where a 1 denotes the specific issue is not important to your county, and 10 is extremely important at this time, please rate the following.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing development and growth rate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environment and conservation regulations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Economic development and commercial tax base
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education funding and school construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation and infrastructure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Cost of Real Estate Transactions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Taxes (including property taxes, real estate fees)

Do you oppose the implementation or increase of local real estate transfer taxes, recordation stamp taxes, excise taxes, or impact fees that would increase the cost of buying a new or resale home?

Yes  No

Will you work with SMAR and its partners to create more home ownership opportunities and educate the community with education, grants and programs?

Yes  No

Do you support source of income as a protected class?

Yes  No

As you know, SMAR's members live and work here. Will you work with SMAR to appoint its members to local boards and commissions to represent the real estate industry business community voice?

Yes  No

Regarding the constant yield tax rate, when a property owner pays more in property taxes in one fiscal year than the previous, SMAR believes the property taxes have increased- do you?

Yes  No

Do you believe income taxes and fees in your county are too high, too low or about right?

- 1 Too high
- 2 Too low
- 3 About right

Compared to other counties in Maryland, would you say that real property taxes in your county are higher, lower or about the same?

- 1 Higher
- 2 Lower
- 3 About the same

Locally, real estate provides on average 80% of the county revenues. This is taxed through transfer taxes, recordation fees, impact fees, excise taxes and capital gains taxes in addition to property taxes and various local property surcharges. In your opinion, are real estate transactions:

- 1 Overtaxed
- 2 Undertaxed
- 3 Appropriately taxed for related government service

On a scale of 1-10, how important will a working relationship with the state delegation be to you as an elected official? \_\_\_\_\_

***I affirm these answers represent my deeds and thoughts. These answers may be shared by the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors.***

**Candidate Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_