

League of Women Voters

Note: 400 character, 50 word limit for all q's

QUALIFICATIONS: How does your background prepare you for the duties of this office?

I am a first-generation immigrant and a parent of 3 MCPS students. I have 20 years of classroom teaching and policy research experience, 11 of them teaching MCPS graduates. I have worked with budgets, financial reports, and data. I have been an MCCPTA committee chair and PTA president. I am the founder of an annual countywide Mental Health and Wellness Forum for students/families.

Como inmigrante y padre de tres hijos que asiten a MCPS y académico, y activista, conozco muy bien MCPS. Tengo 20 años de experiencia docente e investigación. Lidero un programa universitario (USG), trabajando con presupuestos, informes financieros y data. Fui presidente de un PTA, líder en MCCPTA donde fundé el Foro Anual de Salud Mental y Bienestar para estudiantes y familias.

OPPORTUNITY GAP: What approaches do you support to provide equitable countywide student access to experienced teachers and administrators and a diverse set of programs?

We need to reduce class size/staff ratios by hiring more teachers, staff, and counselors. We need to keep staff/programs in schools currently facing pressures of under-enrollment. We should expand hiring to encourage diversity. We should consult with teachers and staff to bring more training, diverse content, and building an inclusive school culture for all. Higher pay is a possibility as well.

Debemos reducir el tamaño de las clases, contratando más maestros, personal y consejeros. Debemos mantener el número de staff/programas en escuelas con baja matrícula. Incrementar diversidad de personal. Debemos consultar con los maestros y administradores sobre más capacitación, contenidos educativos y la construcción de una cultura escolar inclusiva. Ofrecer mejor salarios también es posible.

BOUNDARY CHANGES: What factors do you think are most important in considering changes to school boundaries?

I have studied and written articles investigating on this complex issue. After decades of massive demographic and population change—and 100 overcrowded and 99 underenrolled schools--boundary changes are inevitable. We can guarantee predictability and adjacency of school assignments by developing a regular, transparent, and fair process of systemwide review and adjustments.

<https://bit.ly/2SMdVv7>

He estudiado extensamente y escrito artículos sobre este complejo tema. Luego del gran cambio demográfico, con 100 escuelas superpobladas y 99 con baja inscripción, es inevitable cambiar los límites. Para garantizar previsibilidad y proximidad de las tareas escolares al hogar, debemos hacer procesos de revision periódicos, transparentes, y justos de ajuste de todo el sistema. <https://bit.ly/2SMdVv7>

FUNDING: Which recommendations by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education should be given the highest priority?

We have to prioritize pre-k expansion, then academic support and wraparound services including counselors, high quality and diverse teachers, and career pathways for students. Achieving these goals really means hiring more teachers and staff. This election itself is about governance and accountability, the last Kirwan recommendation. I want a BOE that is able to govern MCPS more effectively.

Debemos priorizar la expansión de pre-jardín, apoyo académico y servicios integrales incluyendo consejeros, alta calidad y diversidad de docentes y enseñanza de oficios. Para lograrlo debemos contratar más maestros y personal. Esta elección se trata de gobernanza y responsabilidad, la última recomendación de Kirwan. Yo quiero un BOE que pueda gestionar al personal de MCPS de manera más efectiva.

SCHOOL SAFETY: How would you address school safety issues such as gun violence, gang problems and bullying?

Address physical security by reducing portable use, adding entrance vestibules, and cameras that work. Long-term, with educational approaches, not more police officers inside schools. More counselors, trauma-informed, restorative practices, teacher diversity, and ultimately teacher/staff ratios so students actually have a trusted adult in the building. Rebuild the home and school partnership.

Incrementar la seguridad física reduciendo el uso de clases portables, agregar salas de entrada y cámaras que funcionen. A largo plazo, más enfoques educativos y menos policías en las escuelas. Más consejeros para atención de traumas, prácticas de justicia restaurativa y diversidad de maestros. Reducir el tamaño de clase hará que estudiantes tengan adultos de confianza cerca con quien hablar.

VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES: What programs do you propose to address vocational preparation and opportunities for non-college bound students?

Reducing class size allows more specialist courses to run with fewer students right in assigned home schools. Start early in middle school with robust courses such as in coding—a career choice that doesn't need a college degree. More student media and teacher training pathways. We need effective internship coordinators to develop relationships with local organizations to place students.

La reducción de tamaño de clase permitirá más cursos de oficios que podrían dictarse con menos estudiantes en la escuela del barrio. Comenzar temprano en "middle-school" con sólidos cursos de codificación, que no necesita título universitario. Más cursos de periodismo y niñez temprana. Necesitamos coordinadores efectivos de pasantías para mejorar relaciones con empresas locales y ONGs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: How will you obtain and use community and parent/student views in making Board decisions?

I will have a direct and open relationship with families, students, teachers and staff, and reach out to under-represented groups. The onus is on BOE members to get out more, not to wait for public hearings alone. BOE should develop a regular process of addressing constituent requests. Personally, I plan to visit each cluster annually and regularly hold informal "office hours" with stakeholders.

Tendré una relación directa y abierta con las familias, estudiantes, maestros, personal. Buscaré a los grupos excluidos. El BOE tienen la responsabilidad de salir y comunicarse, no esperar las audiencias públicas. El BOE debe desarrollar un proceso para responder las solicitudes recibidas. Planeo visitar personalmente cada cluster anualmente y mantener reuniones informales con los interesados.

PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities?

Expand hiring to address class size/staff ratios. Rebuild the home and school partnership. Invest in the health and safety of our students and staff, including mental health and wellness. But we have to find the money and have strong leadership on the BOE. The county and the state will provide new funding and we should rebalance capital and operating budgets to free more resources.

Reducir el tamaño de las clases, contratando más maestros y personal. Reconstruir la asociación hogar-escuela. Invertir en la salud y seguridad de los estudiantes y personal, incluyendo salud mental y bienestar. Necesitamos encontrar el dinero y tener un fuerte liderazgo en BOE. El Condado y MD darán más fondos. También debemos rebalancear el presupuesto operativo y de capital, liberando recursos.

Preview Responses 

Please review your submission below. If you are satisfied, click "Submit." If you'd like to make changes or upload a different picture, click "Edit."

If you have any questions or problems with this questionnaire, please contact League of Women Voters at votersguide@lwvmd.org.

Contact Information

Contact's Email

friends4sunil@gmail.com

Contact's Name

Sunil Dasgupta

Candidate Photo

Picture



Biographical Info

Occupation

Professor

Contact Person's Phone

(240) 554-5923

Contact Person's Address

P.O. Box 9542 Silver Spring MD 20916

Campaign Website

<http://sunildasgupta.com>

Campaign Facebook

<http://sunildasgupta.com>

Campaign Twitter

[@sunildasgupta4](https://twitter.com/sunildasgupta4)

Campaign Instagram

@sunildasgupta4

Campaign Email

friends4sunil@gmail.com

Campaign Phone

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[Silver Spring, MD 20916](#)

Campaign Questions

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