

# Alice Cain: Annapolis area residents want more support for education



Alice Cain is a Democratic candidate for delegate in District 30A. (Courtesy photo)

By **Alice Cain**

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**A**s a candidate for the [House of Delegates](#), I've had the opportunity to ask hundreds of voters what's on their minds as the June 26 primary approaches. The issue I hear about most is education. Voters want to see more support for our public schools. I agree, which is exactly why I want to serve in the legislature.

I spent three decades of my career in education policy in the classroom, on Capitol Hill and at nonprofit organizations. The knowledge I gained through my work has made me a strong and effective voice for students, teachers and schools. Let me be clear about my record and how I will serve District 30A in the House of Delegates.

Early in my career, I was a teacher in an adult literacy program. My students faced many obstacles — some had dropped out of high school, others faced language barriers as recent immigrants and refugees, and most were just barely getting by despite working several part-time jobs. They had one thing in common: they needed their GED as the next step in building their future. I saw how hard they worked but was dismayed by how few resources were available to help. Seeing that gap motivated me to work for change in the policy arena and I went on to spend over a decade working for the education committees in Congress.

There, I helped enact the National Literacy Act. Years later, when Congress tried to eliminate federal funding for literacy, I built a coalition that not only reversed the decision but ended up doubling that investment! As a result, waiting lists shrunk and more students were able to get help. More recently, I helped write a law signed by President Barack Obama that brought an additional \$250 million to Maryland's public schools. Through those experiences, I learned how to translate good ideas into legislation, get a law passed, and get a law funded.

Today, I work at a nonprofit (Teach Plus) that was founded by a public school teacher. We fight every day against U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' short-sighted, heartless, and ill-advised proposals to cut public school funding, deport Dreamers, and arm classroom teachers with guns. Last year I led our effort to mobilize teachers against DeVos' confirmation and our civil rights coalition came within one vote of derailing her confirmation. I learned that when setbacks happen, the best response is to continue working for what you believe in.

I'm doing that by serving on the Annapolis Education Commission, where I try to reduce overcrowding in schools, increase teacher pay, and ensure all students have a safe way to get to and from school. The legislature can help and, as a delegate, I will continue my advocacy for the Maryland State Education Association's movement to Fix the Fund and ensure that casino gaming revenue will actually be used for schools. I will also continue my work with Strong Schools Maryland to ensure fairness and equity when the legislature writes a law next year designed to build a world-class education system in Maryland.

It is important that voters have accurate information about the candidates and our positions. That is why I was thrilled when Mayor Gavin Buckley called me an "education champion" at my kick-off party, and when Dr. Lillian Lowery, superintendent of Maryland Public Schools under Gov. Martin O'Malley, endorsed me because of my long-time "support for public schools and kids" and my "belief in the potential of all children."

This is only the beginning of my platform. As I share my vision for how we can build stronger schools, a cleaner environment, a more robust economy, safer communities, and a government we can trust, I welcome your feedback. I invite you to share it with me at [alicejcain.com](http://alicejcain.com) or [alice@alicejcain.com](mailto:alice@alicejcain.com).

*Alice Cain is a Democratic candidate for delegate in District 30A.*

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