

# Candidate for House of Delegates: Alice Cain



Alice Cain, 50, of Annapolis is a Democratic candidate for House of Delegates in District 30A/ (Courtesy photo)

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**N**ame: Alice Cain

**Age:** 50

**Residence:** Annapolis

**Family status:** Married with two children

**Occupation:** Nonprofit leader, Teach Plus

**Education:** Bachelor of the arts with honors from Gettysburg College, with some coursework toward a master's degree

**Office being sought:** House of Delegate, District 30A

**Party affiliation:** Democrat

**First-time candidate?** Yes

**Contact for voters:** 410-645-0541

**Campaign website:** [alicejcain.com](http://alicejcain.com)

### **What is the biggest issue facing your constituents?**

Every constituent is affected by the economy, with education and the environment as two essential pillars that shape our economic health. Our schools are under-resourced and face unprecedented challenges; and environmental progress that was years in the making is being threatened by budget cutbacks and regulatory changes coming from Washington, D.C. We must face our educational and environmental challenges head-on and, in so doing, we will help our economy.

### **How would you address/fix that issue?**

We must double-down on our efforts to move Maryland forward on the issues that have the greatest impact on our quality of life and strong economy, including education and the environment. I would address this by: Bringing education policy expertise that I have developed over the past three decades when a major new law that has been years in the making is written by the legislature in 2019. Literally hundreds of decisions will be made – including the re-write of our school funding formula. This has been years in the making with the Kirwan Commission delving deeply into how to build a world-class education system in our state. Fighting against any efforts to use public dollars for nonpublic schools, or to privatize public education as [Donald Trump](#), Betsy DeVos, and Larry Hogan have tried to do. I will fight alongside our teachers to build and elevate the teaching profession, and with MSEA and Strong Schools Maryland to get our public schools the resources they need, to reduce overcrowding in schools, and to keep all of our schools safe. Supporting efforts to reach zero net greenhouse gas emissions through investments in renewable energy, pricing carbon, funding sustainable transportation, and continuing implementation of our “pollution diet.” I will actively seek to “lock box” the funding for Program Open Space, counter the Trump administration’s attack on the environment and build Maryland’s reputation as a leader in addressing environmental challenges. I would like to play a leadership role in addressing “food deserts” so all families have access to healthy, nutritious food and continue to build our environmental education programs.

### **Why are you the best candidate?**

Voters in 30A get to vote for two candidates. I believe the very best candidate for 30A Delegate is our current delegate and Speaker of the House Mike Busch. After the speaker, I believe I am the next best — and deserve your second vote — for two reasons: After spending nearly 30 years in the policy arena – including 12 years working for the government and for what I consider to be two of the best nonprofit advocacy organization in the country (Teach Plus and the Children’s Defense Fund), I know the issues and how to get things done through legislation, regulations, and budgets. I have proven experience that matters and will enable me to hit the ground running and get things done in the legislature. While I have extensive policy experience, I am not a career politician, nor do I aspire to be one. I think our country is facing unprecedented challenges and we need common sense solutions from people who want to “be the change” our country needs right now. Now is the time

for all of us who love our country – wherever we are on the continuum of political involvement – to take it up a notch or two. I have volunteered from my earliest days in Annapolis. Through my service on the Annapolis Education Commission; fighting for the Non-Discrimination Ordinance last year; volunteering in our public schools; testifying before the school board, City Council and County Council; and helping lead the youth group at my church, I have tried to make our community stronger, more unified, and an even better place to live. I see service in the legislature as a continuation of these efforts. I will to bring some gender diversity to the Anne Arundel County delegation, which consists almost exclusively of men.

### **If elected, what legislation would be your priority? What would it do?**

In 2019 the legislature is expected to enact a major new law to build a world-class education system, as envisioned by a VIP commission (Kirwan Commission) that has been building a plan with state, national and international experts over the past couple of years. This law will affect every public school student, teacher, and school in our state and the stakes are huge. I want to serve in the legislature so I can help write that formula in a way that is fair and ensures students who have the least get the most. I know how funding formulas work and how to get things done in the legislative arena. I want to use what I've learned to be a voice for our students, teachers, and schools.

### **If you have any previous political experience, what was it and how will it help your campaign?**

I worked on education policy Capitol Hill for 11 years, including crafting a bill signed by [President Obama](#) that brought \$250 million new federal dollars to Maryland public schools. I worked for two of the great statesmen of our time, both of whom were champions for education, organized labor, and the environment, Sen. Paul Simon and Rep. [George Miller](#). Through them, I learned that great leadership is ultimately about listening to those who agree with you AND those who don't; always learning; and collaborating in a respectful and bipartisan way to find common ground for the common good. I am a bridge-builder and bring that spirit to this work. I have also worked on a number of campaigns. I served on a national committee of education experts that helped Senator Obama develop his education platform and I knocked on doors for Obama in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and South Carolina. I also volunteered on the campaigns of Chris Van Hollen, Harris Wofford and Bob Edgar (in Pennsylvania, where I went to college), and Tony Center, a Democrat who ran against Newt Gingrich in the 1990s. My campaign experience taught me that candidates should always be true to themselves and their values on the campaign trail – and that is how I am running my campaign. Finally, my father was elected to the US Congress in 1964 and voted in favor of the [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#), knowing it would cost him his seat. For the rest of his life, he was proud of his role in advancing civil rights and considered losing his seat a small price to pay for doing the right thing. I am proud of the example he set of what public service can and should be.

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